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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
446,000

No 63,093

THE



TIMES

SATURDAY MAY 28 1988

30p

Times survey uncovers the extent of Soviet dissent on eve of summit

Unrest spreads across USSR

By George Brock, Foreign Editor

Fermenting civil unrest and unofficial political activity are spreading across the Soviet Union more widely than any previous estimate has indicated.

The Times has compiled an unprecedented survey of dissenting protest across the country on the eve of the Moscow superpower summit. Assembled from dissident and published sources, and covering February, March and April, the survey lists almost 200 instances of demonstration, protest or unrest — more than two such events per day during that period.

Although the most dramatic unrest in those months took place in Azerbaijan and Armenia, dozens of protests, demonstrations and attempts at new political activity took place at the same time. Some were violent, some only tentative. Only a fraction of the are ever referred to in the official Soviet media, in spite of the increased reporting

freedom allowed by glasnost.

The accounts display an extraordinary scope and variety. They show that there is almost no heavily populated region of the Soviet Union untouched by at least the hitherto unfamiliar sight of small groups of protesters holding placards and chanting slogans previously only murmured in secret.

The survey also vividly reflects the uncertainty of local authorities faced with new dilemmas. On some occasions, the KGB and militias

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have broken up protests with traditional brutality, while at similar events elsewhere they have made no attempt to intervene.

The full picture of the frequency and range of the "new" political activity can only be built up from thousands of new organizations, whose activities are only gradually emerging into the open. Much of the information on which The Times survey is based has become available in Europe before being known inside the Soviet Union. Many of the events in the chronology have not been revealed previously.

The record is the best that can be compiled to date but it is likely to be incomplete.

This political activity, which often still ends in arrest and detention for those taking part, would have been unheard-of before Mr Mikhail Gorbachev took over as General Secretary. It takes several quite separate forms. A large proportion is the result of fermenting ethnic unrest — principally, during the period of the survey, in Armenia but also in Crimea, Lithuania and the Ukraine. The remainder is undertaken mostly by dissident activists in cities such as Moscow and Leningrad, seeking conventional — in Western terms — political rights of assembly and free expression.

A small proportion takes the form of protests by Jewish refugees asking to emigrate to Israel. A few demonstrations have been on behalf of free trade unions or against compulsory military service.

There have been a significant number of protests against nuclear power, not

confined to the Ukraine. In theory, Soviet law makes it possible for demonstrations to be held with official permission; in the past, these permits have rarely been available to unofficial groups. Now there are occasional examples of the authorities showing a more accommodating attitude.

Informal political groups are proliferating faster than the authorities can count them. Last November, Pravda admitted to 30,000; that figure is almost certainly an underestimate.

Earlier this month, the "Democratic Union" held an inaugural meeting in Moscow — in the face of disruption by the authorities — founded a political party in opposition to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the first such opposition body to exist since the 1920s.

By no means all informal groups oppose the Government or the Communist Party. Details disclosed in the survey suggest that some groups oppose the nationalist demands of some ethnic groups in way which would suit the Kremlin. Many of the political issues which have suddenly been opened up for debate are confined to internal matters, concentrate on putting pressure on the existing system, or are historic ethnic disputes which pre-date Communist rule. There is reported to be an informal group of neo-Stalinists.

An examination of only two days in March measures the extent of the new phenomenon. On March 5 in Moscow, around 20 Crimean Tatars demonstrated near Moscow's

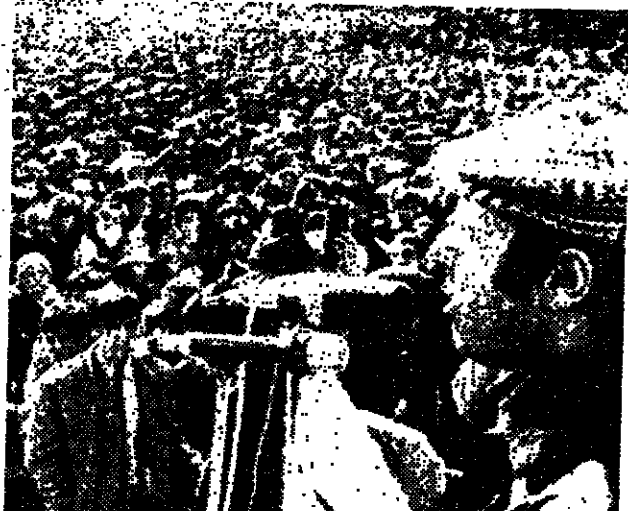
Rosyia Hotel, demanding the return of their "homeland". The militia detained 15. The same day, in Bogatoye, Crimea, more than 400 Tatars demonstrated near the bus terminal.

In the same town on the same day, parents of 38 students at the Bogatovskaya School declared that they would refuse to send their children there while a certain Mr Sidorov was still teaching. He was accused of anti-Tatar prejudice. In Moscow the following day, the editorial board of Express Khronika, a leading reformist magazine, invited independent editors to a meeting to discuss setting up an association.

In Moscow on the same day, Valeria Novodvorskaya organized a meeting which heard calls for a multi-party system. A hundred people demonstrated in October Square on the 35th anniversary of Stalin's death. KGB officers and militiamen seized placards, and some protesters were beaten up. Arrests were followed by punishments ranging from fines to two months' corrective labour. That day also saw fighting between ethnic gangs in Moscow which was reported to have left 10 people dead or injured.

A poll in yesterday's New York Times suggests that there is reasonably widespread sympathy for nationalist minorities, at least among Moscovites. One in five said that ethnic minorities were mistreated.

An overwhelming majority of people polled in Moscow favoured competitive elections.



Flashback to Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, last February, when hundreds of thousands of Armenians went on strike in protest against Soviet policies in the region.



Flower power: President Reagan with Mrs Telliervo Koivisto, wife of the Finnish President, at a luncheon yesterday.

Reagan: Ring bells for freedom

From Michael Binyon, Helsinki

President Reagan, applauding recent Soviet advances in human rights, especially in religion, yesterday called for church bells to ring out again in Moscow and throughout the country he will visit for the first time tomorrow.

This would be a demonstration that freedom of religion has been restored in practice and in law, he said.

"Moscow was known as the City of the Forty Forties because there were 1,600 bells in the churches of the city," he said. "The world welcomes the return of some churches to worship in after many years. But there are still relatively few functioning churches, and almost no bells."

"What a magnificent demonstration of goodwill it would be for the Soviet leadership for church bells to ring out again."

He also challenged the Soviet leadership to tear down

the Berlin Wall and all barriers between Eastern and Western Europe; to release remaining political prisoners; and to codify into law new freedoms of speech, travel and religion while embracing the practices and values that define Western civilization.

In an important speech in Finlandia Hall, where 35 nations signed the Final Act of the Helsinki Agreements 13 years ago, Mr Reagan praised Soviet advances in human rights. Without them, he said, "there is no true international security".

He also saluted the Helsinki Agreements as a "kind of map through the wilderness of mutual hostility to open fields of peace and to a common home of trust among all of our sovereign nations — neutrals, non-aligned and alliance members alike".

And he paid generous tribute to Finland's role in

convening the conference, and said: "America respects Finland's neutrality. We support Finland's independence. We honour Finland's courageous history. We salute the creative statesmanship that has been Finland's gift to world peace."

Dwelling on human rights in the Soviet Union, which President Reagan has said would be a main focus of his talks in Moscow, he said Mr Gorbachev had spoken forthrightly about problems confronting his country.

"In his campaign to address these shortcomings, he talks of glasnost and perestroika — openness and restructuring — words that to our ears have a particularly welcome sound. And since he began his campaign things have happened that all of us applaud."

He cited the release from exile and labour camps of dissidents, writers, psychiatrists and Jewish activists. He

praised the publication of books like *Dr Zhivago* and the distribution of films like *Repentance* that were critical of the Soviet past and present. He applauded greater toleration of dissent, higher levels of emigration and the start of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

But Soviet practice did not — or did not yet — measure up to Soviet commitment. "It is difficult to understand why cases of divided families and blocked marriages should remain on the East-West agenda; or why Soviet citizens wish to exercise their right to emigrate should be subject to artificial quota and arbitrary ruling, and what are we to think of the continued suppression of those who wish to practise their religious beliefs?"

Over 300 men and women whom the world sees as political prisoners have been

Continued on page 6, col 5

NEXT WEEK

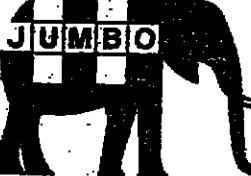


● A unique newspaper service begins in The Times on Monday: The Good University Guide.

● Everything worth knowing about college life, from the brightest tutors to the best bitters, will be featured over three weeks.

● All the British universities and polytechnics, from Aberdeen to York, will be examined. And there is a lap-top computer to be won each day.

INSIDE



● Can you tackle The Times Jumbo Crossword? Page 21.

IN PART 2

Win £50,000

The Portfolio £4,000 daily prize was not claimed yesterday, so the Accumulator Fund rises to £50,000. Portfolio tables Pages 29, 34

Share move

Building societies have received the go-ahead to give savers a share of their profits. Family Money Pages 30-34

Lloyd's loss

A group of 1,642 members in a Lloyd's syndicate could lose up to £1 billion — an average of £600,000 — far exceeding any loss so far seen at the insurance market Page 25

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'New TUC' hint by Hammond

By Jill Sherman and Tim Jones

The moderate electricians' union, which faces expulsion from the TUC, has been laying the groundwork for establishing an alternative organization made up of unions which share its no-strike philosophy.

The clearest indication that the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Recruitment drive 3

ing Union now finds its position in the TUC untenable came yesterday at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Brighton.

Mr Trevor Clay, the RCN general secretary, disclosed that he had received a letter from Mr Roy Sanderson, leader of the BEETU's white-collar section, suggesting a meeting

Continued on page 24, col 1

Syrians move into south Beirut

Troops yards from hostages

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut

Syrian troops stood last night only a few hundred yards from the Hezbollah barracks in which some of the 16 foreign hostages in Lebanon — including Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy — are thought to be incarcerated.

But by dusk only 900 soldiers and 52 members of the Lebanese gendarmerie had entered the 16 square miles of slums that make up the suburbs of southern Beirut, and Syrian officials made no secret of the fact that the long anguish of the hostages may continue for some time to come.

Although more troops are to be deployed in the suburbs this morning, effectively ending the armed presence of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia in the remaining streets, Syria, Iran and Hezbollah leaders have all made it clear that

there will have to be further negotiations before the hostages are freed.

The sight of Syrian troops in the haunting ruins of Chiyah and Ghobeiri, wedged down with rocket-propelled grenades as they tramped through the wreckage of three weeks fighting in their flak

jackets and steel helmets, was one for which the hostages' families — in Britain, America, Ireland, Germany and India — had been waiting, in some cases for more than three years.

There was no doubting Syria's determination yesterday to invest the remainder of Hezbollah's crumbling freedom. In Damascus, Syrian officials spoke hopefully — but with great caution — of the

prospects for the hostages' release.

By last night, the Syrians had established five checkpoints along a demarcation line that ran from Chiyah due south along a line parallel to the Beirut airport highway, a position which brought them close to the Hay Madi Hezbollah barracks where many of the hostages are thought to be held. It is here that Hezbollah control a series of underground cells in which foreigners have reportedly been held. But it would be impossible for the Syrians to storm the building without endangering the Western captives.

The presence of 7,500 troops around the slums, all of them Special Forces soldiers with their own heavy armour, no doubt contributed to the fact that not a shot was fired at

Continued on page 24, col 2

Alert after North Sea collision

By David Sapsted

An alert to shipping in the North Sea was issued by the Dutch coastguard last night after a coaster carrying dangerous chemicals sank after being in collision with a roll-on, roll-off freighter.

One man was missing from the 1,600-tonne Dutch vessel Anna Broere after the collision but an air-sea search had to be postponed until the extent of any chemical leakage was ascertained.

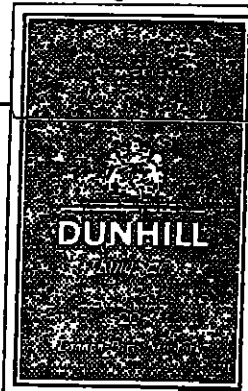
The Dutch ship is believed to have sunk within minutes of colliding with the 25,000-ton freighter Atlantic Compass, en route from Sweden to Antwerp.

Ten of the 11 crewmen on board the sinking ship were picked up by the freighter and one of the survivors was airlifted to hospital.

New ferry fire, page 2

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Blended to your taste

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers
Forecast, page 24

NEWS ROUNDUP

Naval clerk held in theft inquiry

A Civil Servant at the Ministry of Defence has been arrested on suspicion of theft after it was alleged that he had thrown away a suitcase filled with classified documents.

The Civil Servant, who is employed as a clerk at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, south-east London, was being questioned by police yesterday.

It is understood that the documents were classified as "restricted". They did not contain high grade secrets. A witness has told the police that she saw the man throwing out the suitcase in a block of flats at Gipsy Hill in south London. Yesterday the ministry confirmed that an employee at the Royal Naval College had been arrested.

IRA victims buried

The funeral was held in Lincoln yesterday of dog handler Corporal Derek Hayes, of the Royal Pioneer Corps, and his golden labrador, Ben, who were murdered by the IRA. Corporal Hayes was buried with full military honours at the Newport cemetery. Ben's ashes were buried with him — the first time a dog has been accorded a military funeral. They were killed by an IRA mine on the first day of an extra period of voluntary duty while searching land in South Armagh. His widow, Susan, and daughter Maxine, aged 3, flew from Northern Ireland for the funeral service.

Order to Sun chief

The Scottish editor of *The Sun* was ordered yesterday to appear before a Court of Session judge in Edinburgh to answer an allegation of contempt of court. Lord Weir ordered Mr Jack Irvine to appear after being told of an article in the newspaper which claimed to be an exclusive interview with Lady Cassillis who is involved in a court action surrounding her divorce. Mr Iain Bonomy for Lady Cassillis told the judge that she gave no such interview. Mr Irvine said he "will fight this case all the way".

Spy book warning

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, warned book shops yesterday that they risked proceedings for contempt of court if they tried to sell Peter Wright's banned book, *Spycatcher*. His warning came in reply to a written Commons question prompted by reports that a number of bookshops were openly stocking the memoirs of the former intelligence officer. Mr John Morris, QC, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said it was surprising that Sir Patrick had not decided on more positive action than merely sending letters.

Inquiry by RUC

The Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday began to investigate reports that a convicted confidence trickster who last September sold a yacht to the Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, had been involved in a fraudulent venture while in Northern Ireland. A statement from RUC headquarters said that neither the former business partner of Mr John Hermon, who was arrested in 1984 at Canterbury on fraud and deception charges, nor Northern Ireland's local enterprise development unit, the alleged victim of the attempted fraud, had made any complaint in the past against Hermon.

McVeigh remanded

Patrick McVeigh, the suspected IRA terrorist believed to be responsible for bombings in London, was yesterday remanded in custody until June 13 at Portlaoise District Court in the Irish Republic. He is contesting an extradition in the first case under the new procedures agreed last month between the British and Irish governments. An application for bail was rejected.

Commons chef fined

Stealing food from the House of Commons kitchen was a "perk of the job" for staff, a chef told Bow Street Court in London yesterday. Paul Blacker, aged 29, of Weymouth Terrace, Bethnal Green, was fined £150 and £50 costs after admitting stealing £100 of groceries and kitchen goods from the Palace of Westminster. The groceries were found when police searched Blacker's home and he was dismissed.

Plain sailing to France through P&O frontline

P&O European Ferries faces the Bank holiday rush of cross-Channel traffic this weekend with fewer services, pickets at Dover docks, and the National Union of Seamen accusing the company of operating unsafely. *Ronald Fox* took his car from Dover to Calais on the British-crewed *MS Pride of Bruges*.

There was a choice, the ticket clerk said. Any of the day's 10 P&O sailings from Dover would have space for myself and my car, just pay and pick up the tickets not more than one hour before departure. This, she declared proudly, was only two fewer sailings than normal.

The next day I followed three coaches carrying a new crew under police escort down to the *MS Pride of Bruges* berthed in Dover docks. An uproar of abuse greeted them at

the gates, where pickets crowded in the rain behind a line of police. Leaflets were thrust into every vehicle, warning of the danger of sailing P&O. The faces in the coaches registered nothing they had made their choice.

Some passengers were bemused by the demonstration. An American in a large camper van wanted to know what was going on. It was a strike, he was told. Did that mean he could not sail? No, the strikers were all outside the docks trying to persuade those inside to come out. He looked even more bemused.

Loading went smoothly and two vehicle decks were quickly filled with cars and lorries. A company loader told me the coach trade had slumped and numbers generally were down, but that was to be

expected. Perhaps it was an advantage for the moment because many of the crew were new to the job and still under training. The company was claiming only a skeleton service but the skeleton was already being given flesh.

Before departure, emergency drills were broadcast throughout the ship in English, French and German. The father of a family from Ashford, Kent, en route to a holiday in the Loire Valley listened attentively next to a loudspeaker over the din that came from a piledriver working in the docks. He said: "I thought I had better take more notice. I do not think it's likely to be dangerous. After the Herald of Free Enterprise and everything that has happened since, I reckon everyone must be on their toes. It's human nature.

Things have probably never been safer."

A few minutes behind schedule, the ferry slipped her moorings and sailed out into a thick Channel fog with a mournful blast of siren.

In the cafeteria a girl on the check-out jumped with alarm when her till suddenly screamed at her. "How do I stop it?" she cried. Her companion opposite said: "Press the red button on the left." Training was underway.

She said it was her first day in the job. The only thing she worried about was whether she would be ill at the till when the ship started to lurch a bit.

None of the other passengers I spoke to had serious doubts about safety. And crew members, too, were confident that no corners were

being cut.

In the restaurant, a newly-appointed steward said he had joined P&O after working several years as a police officer. He knew which side of the Dover picket line he would prefer to be on. "I don't worry about ignoring the pickets and driving through their lines. I just feel very sad for them," he said.

The *MS Pride of Bruges* inched her way across an oily, barely visible Channel, dreading through the wakes of other shipping and under her solemn stern warnings. She was a few minutes behind schedule at Calais after an uneventful passage for more than 300 on board. The ramp went down and vehicles streamed into France hardly aware that they had taken a small part in a large industrial battle.

Dublin seeks stiffer new rules to curb race bias

By Paul Valley

The Irish Government is to press for changes to the proposed new law to check racial discrimination in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday in Dublin, government sources said that at the next meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference, the Irish team would urge amendments to the law proposed in the White Paper published this week.

Senior Dublin officials were anxious to emphasize that the White Paper is a significant contribution to the two governments' plan to remove the social and economic conditions in which the IRA flourishes in West Belfast.

However, they fear that, in an attempt to mute opposition from Unionist groups, Westminster has given the proposed law too few teeth.

One senior government official said privately: "Britain has to grasp the nettle. The British have tried to please everybody and say that if the proposals are criticized by both sides they must be about right. But that is not a tenable position."

Dublin officials want firmer action in four areas. During more than 12 months' negotiations the Anglo-Irish conference team agreed that under the new law public grants and contracts should be withheld from recalcitrant employers.

The White Paper appears to limit these only to particular government contracts and to

grants connected with job creation.

Other public sector contracts awarded through local councils and health and education authorities are apparently not covered. "If these are not to be included, this will be a very serious disappointment," one official said.

Secondly, Dublin wants the new Fair Employment Commission to set legally enforceable goals and targets for individual firms.

Dublin would favour reverse discrimination to speed progress but accepts that it would not be politically acceptable in the north.

The third area concerns British proposals on "affirmative action". Giving examples of these the White Paper says that employers "could" be encouraged to have special recruiting drives in Catholic areas and "could end the display of flags and emblems likely to give offence". Dublin regards these measures as timid.

Finally, Dublin would like to see the instructions of the new commission given force of law, subject only to an appeal to the High Court.

An English woman refused a job because she cannot speak Welsh was the victim of indirect race discrimination, an industrial tribunal ruled at Colwyn Bay in North Wales yesterday. But the tribunal awarded no compensation to Mrs Deanna Cameron, aged 45, of Coetmor, Bethesda.

Marriage for Meacher



Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, and Mrs Lucy Sawyer, at their wedding yesterday in Morden, south-west London. The marriage is the second for both Mr Meacher, aged 48, and Mrs Sawyer, aged 52, each of whose first marriages ended in divorce. Mrs Sawyer wore a grey printed dress, a white and grey hat, and lilac satin shoes, and carried a bouquet of white and yellow freesias. The bride said that the honeymoon would be abroad but added, referring to Mr Meacher's libel action against *The Observer*: "It can't be for too long. We have got to be back in court on Tuesday week."

(Photograph: James Gray)

Guards deny Falklands neglect

Regiment tells how it helps

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Scots Guards, smarting at accusations that the regiment had not cared enough for its Falklands wounded, yesterday provided evidence of some of the soldiers who had received special help.

The accusations of neglect have been levelled by Mr Robert Lawrence. A BBC television programme next Tuesday is dramatizing his experiences as a Scots Guards lieutenant during the battle for Tumbledown mountain, when he was severely wounded, and after he had returned to Britain.

Sources in the Scots Guards yesterday cited examples of members of the regiment who could discount Mr Lawrence's allegations of neglect. They included a guardsman wounded in the stomach by a

grenade received £36,000 from the South Atlantic Fund in August 1983. His medical condition worsened and he needed a high protein diet. He started to get into financial trouble and asked the regiment to help. It arranged for his case to be reassessed and this year he received an additional £50,000.

A lance corporal whose left arm was shattered was found a job by his battalion after his medical discharge. The regiment lent him £5,000 to furnish his council house.

A guardsman who lost the lower half of a leg from a mortar fragment received £5,000 from the South Atlantic Fund and a car. The regiment contributed £1,000 towards the car price and he was also given a £1,500 loan,

was found a job at a Guards depot swimming pool where he could train for the paraplegic games and was bought special equipment for the games costing £100.

A corporal whose left arm was shattered was lent £7,000 by the regiment to buy a specially adapted car and received counselling from the regiment when he faced financial difficulties.

A colour sergeant whose left arm was shattered was given a job in the recruiting organization and given a £5,000 interest-free loan.

A lance sergeant who lost a foot in a minefield was found a job and is now "very happy and content".

Some widows of men killed in the Falklands had also received help.

MPs to quiz MoD over Tornados

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence is facing serious embarrassment at the disclosure that more than one squadron of Tornado jet fighters will be sitting in storage by the end of this year.

The ministry is under pressure from MPs to reveal the "true" cost of storing in mothballs 32 of the RAF's precious Tornados, some of which could remain out of service for up to five years. MPs are already calling for an inquiry. Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip-

Northwood, has described the mothballed Tornados as "a staggering example of MoD mismanagement".

The details of the Tornados, the first of which were delivered to the RAF in November 1984, initially were revealed by senior ministry officials under questioning by MPs. Ministry officials have claimed that the cost of storage is £50,000 a year. But MPs have asked the ministry for comprehensive breakdown of the cost.

The Tornados at the RAF St Athan base in Wales consist of 14 of the older F2s and eight more modern F3s. RAF pilots and navigators are being trained on F3s, so the 14 F2s at St Athan will have to remain in storage until they can be upgraded. But that's not due until the early 1990s.

RAF officials said yesterday that the surplus of Tornado F3s was because British Aerospace had produced them at a faster rate than had been expected.

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Shipping Times (These are approximate and subject to change without notice)

Destination	Ship	Departure	Arrival
Amsterdam	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	15:00
Amsterdam	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	03:00
Antwerp	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	14:00
Antwerp	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	02:00
Bremerhaven	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	14:00
Bremerhaven	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	02:00
Copenhagen	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	16:00
Copenhagen	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	04:00
Hamburg	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	14:00
Hamburg	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	02:00
London	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	14:00
London	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	02:00
Oslo	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	16:00
Oslo	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	04:00
Stockholm	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	16:00
Stockholm	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	04:00
Zeebrugge	MS Pride of Bruges	11:00	14:00
Zeebrugge	MS Pride of Bruges	23:00	02:00

'Let farmers charge' for new footpaths

Farmers and landowners should be able to negotiate new rights of way with local authorities in return for an annual payment, Mr Gordon Lee-Sterne, President of the Country Landowners Association, said yesterday.

There was no question of charging for access to existing footpaths and bridlepaths.

But if there was a demand for further access, it could provide farmers, whose real incomes had halved since 1978, with extra money.

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Scientist's children win fight to block widow's inheritance

By Alan Hamilton

The widow of Professor Keith Simpson, the former Home Office pathologist and one of the century's most distinguished forensic scientists, yesterday lost her attempt in the High Court to keep control of his £400,000 estate.

Mr Justice Morritt ruled that his last will, made out largely in favour of his wife, was void because of his incapacity.

Professor Simpson had been reduced to a state of helplessness and shambling confusion by a brain tumour in his last months, and his wife had taken the opportunity to exert an undue influence on him, the judge said.

The case was brought by Professor Simpson's son and twin daughters against his widow and third wife, Dr Janet Simpson.

Professor Simpson died in 1985, aged 78, after a glittering career. His key role in celebrated cases ranging from John Haigh, the acid bath murderer, to James Hanratty, the A6 murderer, won him world-wide acclaim.

He is best remembered as the man who first identified the "battered baby" syndrome, and who acted as pathologist in the first successful battered baby prosecution in Britain.

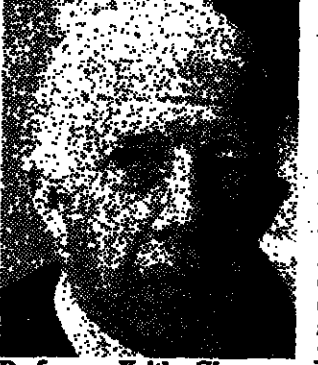
He was still active and controversial in 1983 when he refused to carry out a post-mortem examination on one

of the first suspected Aids sufferers, a decision subsequently endorsed by the Department of Health.

Yet near the end, the judge said, he had been changed from being "energetic, amusing, meticulous and forceful" to being "ill-kempt and generally pathetic".

He was "desperately anxious to be taken home and cared for there, wholly dependent on Dr Simpson for all his needs". The judge said it could be presumed that his wife had undue influence on him, and that she had acquired "actual or potential dominance".

His son Mr Ian Simpson, a consultant ophthalmologist of Woodbridge, Suffolk, and his daughters Mrs Janet Ross, a nurse also of Woodbridge, and Mrs Ann French, a physiotherapist of Maidenhead, Berkshire, had gone to court to



Professor Keith Simpson: "reduced to helplessness".

challenge the move made by their father three months before his death.

He had effectively disposed of 70 per cent of his estate by putting a share portfolio and bank and building society accounts into the joint names of himself and his wife.

He also made arrangements for her to receive the £64,000 half-share in his former home at Tring, Hertfordshire, which was being sold.

The judge found that by the time Professor Simpson had attempted to arrange for the bulk of his estate to go to his wife, who lives at Ebury Street, Westminster, central London, he was so ill that he did not have sufficient mental capacity to do so. He had not valued money for its own sake although he had regarded it as a tangible sign of his success.

In his last months, when he made the transfer of property to his wife, Professor Simpson had been so ill that he had made an unsuccessful attempt at suicide by putting a plastic bag over his head and tying it with a dressing gown belt, the judge said.

He ruled that because of the Professor's incapacity, all transfers of assets made after April 29, 1985, should be declared void. His widow was ordered to pay the costs of the action. The effect of the judge's ruling on the disposal of the Professor's estate will now be worked out by lawyers.

Teenager died of thrombosis

'Safe' pill linked to death

By Craig Seton

A teenager is believed to be the first woman in Britain to die after taking a new contraceptive pill considered one of the safest on the market.

An inquest in Walsall, West Midlands, heard that Dawn Watson, aged 19, suffered a deep leg vein thrombosis four months after she began taking the low-dosage Femodene pill, introduced last year.

The inquest was adjourned to allow the West German manufacturers of the pill, Schering AG, of Berlin, to be represented.

The Committee on the Safety of Medicines, which gave the pill a licence after safety tests, is expected to call for a full report. Miss Watson, a computer operator, of Conway Crescent, Walsall, died last Monday as she was getting

out of her car outside the company where she worked.

Mrs Royal Singh, a Home Office pathologist, told the inquest that the pill had caused a blood clot to develop in Miss Watson's right leg. It had travelled to her heart, blocking the right outlet and two pulmonary arteries, causing a massive pulmonary embolism.

She said that in her opinion Miss Watson's death was caused by the pulmonary embolism resulting from the deep leg vein thrombosis, due to using the pill and her being above average build.

Mrs Singh said afterwards that as far as Schering was aware Miss Watson was the first woman in Britain to die after taking the pill. She described Femodene as of

"very low dosage" and one of the safest on the market.

Miss Watson, whose parents attended the inquest, had been prescribed the pill because she suffered from excessively heavy periods.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that Femodene had been licensed after safety and clinical trials. As it was relatively new, it was covered by a black triangle, indicating to GPs that they should notify any adverse reaction in women to whom it was prescribed. The spokesman said: "GPs would be aware of any possible side effects and who should or should not be on such a pill. If there are side effects, the Committee on the Safety of Medicine will receive information."

Birthday gala for a Dame at 90



By Andrew Billen

Dame Ninette de Valois with students of the Royal Ballet School in Richmond Park, London, yesterday as they prepared for a gala night in her honour. Dame Ninette, founder of the Royal

Ballet, celebrates her ninetieth birthday on June 6 with an evening of ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The proceeds will go towards the £3 million needed to build a theatre studio at the lower school. The gala, in the presence of

the Queen and Princess Margaret, has been choreographed by Mr Anthony Dowell, director of the Royal Ballet. Rudolf Nureyev and Dame Margot Fonteyn are to make guest appearances. (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Charges dropped as 'jinxed' trial ends

By Ronald Faux

A Central Criminal Court trial during which a judge, a juror, a junior barrister, two witnesses and a defendant died ended yesterday when two people who had been accused of computer fraud walked free.

The prosecution dropped all charges against Palcynth Portinger, aged 28, of Croydon, south London, and Adeboye Adelaja, aged 29, a barrister, of Norwood, south London. Judge Rant, QC, formally entered not guilty verdicts.

The hearing lasted more than six months and cost £4 million. It was the first trial in British criminal history where documents were shown to the jury on computer terminals.

The jury, reduced to 10 through death and ill-health, failed to reach verdicts last week at the end of the trial. The case was adjourned to allow the prosecution time to consider a retrial.

Yesterday Mr John Rogers QC, prosecuting, told Judge Rant that the remaining charges would be dropped to avoid another expensive trial. The death of the main defendant and the loss of some witnesses had also influenced the decision, he said.

Three defendants had already been cleared of their alleged parts in the £140,000 frauds from mortgage companies, but the jury could not agree on verdicts on others. The evidence was immensely complex, with more than 5,000 documents and 500 pictures presented on visual display screens.

The trial had been dogged by a string of deaths. Judge Underwood, QC, who was to have presided, collapsed and died of a heart attack. Two witnesses also died, together with a juror, a junior defence barrister and Mr Femi Adelaja, aged 34, one of the defendants.

The jury had spent nine days deliberating, equalling the record at the Central Criminal Court.

CPS move 'could threaten court independence'

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A strong warning came from the Bar yesterday that any move to extend to crown prosecutors the right to take crown court cases, as favoured by the Director of Public Prosecutions, would threaten the independence of prosecutions.

The Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, came out in support of the views of the DPP, Mr Allan Green QC expressed this week; and

there is strong backing also in some areas of the service itself.

Yesterday Mr Niall Morison, Bar secretary, said that if crown prosecutors, who were also Civil Servants, were to prosecute crown court cases, there was a danger that they would "have an eye to promotion" and "over-egg" the case.

The Bar had unanimously passed a resolution in 1985 opposing any extension of rights of audience to the Crown Prosecution Service and it

stood by that policy, he added.

This week Mr Green said that in the long-term, when the CPS had adequate staff, he favoured an extension of advocacy right in the crown court, now the sole preserve of the Bar, to crown prosecutors.

The Lord Chancellor already has power to extend such a right to the 1,300 lawyers in the service under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

Yesterday the Law Society, which wants wider rights of audience for

solicitors generally, said it supported the views of Mr Green.

People aged 80 could be allowed to serve on juries, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said last night. A circular advising on new checks on potential jurors is shortly to be issued to chief constables and court staff.

Mr Hurd said that if the planned increase in the maximum age of jurors from 65 to 70 proved successful the Government could consider a further increase to 75 or 80.

Suicide agony of girl, 7

A couple who were so cruel to a girl aged seven that she tried to jump to her death from a tower block were put on probation yesterday.

Judge Burket Baker, QC, told the mother and stepfather that having children "taken away from them and put in care was 'punishment in itself'. There was now a small baby who was clearly not neglected.

The jury heard that the girl was repeatedly beaten and called names. A woman, aged 21, who lodged with the family told Snarebrook Crown Court, east London that she caught the girl climbing out of her tenth-floor bedroom window. "She told me she thought her mum didn't love her."

The couple were found guilty of two charges of wilful ill-treatment and neglect between October, 1985, and April 2 last year, and given two years' probation each. They denied the charges. The stepfather admitted assaulting the seven-year-old, causing her actual bodily harm.

Mr Stewart Patterson, for the prosecution, said the mother, aged 26, and the stepfather, aged 21, also left their daughter, aged two, in her own mess for long periods.

Mr Henry Spooner, for the defence, said the seven-year-old was particularly demanding and difficult.

Union membership battle

RCN may admit auxiliaries

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday took the first step towards expanding its membership to unqualified nurses in a move likely to spark a recruitment war with other unions in the health service.

Membership of the 270,000-member college is now restricted to registered general nurses, enrolled nurses and student nurses.

However, delegates at the union's congress in Brighton supported a move to look at whether the union should attract 120,000 unqualified auxiliary workers, soon to be replaced by the new nurse helper grade, mainly represented by the National Union of Public Employees and the Confederation of Health Service Employees.

The royal college has put emphasis on the fact that it represents professionally

trained nurses, but it has now taken on board the likelihood of a diminishing professional workforce backed up by a larger group of unqualified support workers.

One of the main planks in any recruitment drive for auxiliaries would be the college's no-strike agreement. The college says that it receives thousands of applications from auxiliary nurses every year who are not aware of the college's exclusive membership.

Congress delegates argued that because of the impending drop in the number of school leavers the college had realized that membership could no longer be confined to professionally trained nurses and that the college should shed its "elitist" image.

Miss Maria Cook, from south-west Thames, said: "Whether you like it or not we

can no longer hold out a dream of a totally qualified nursing staff. There are no longer enough 18-year-olds." Delegates supported a move to consider the feasibility of nursing assistants of becoming associate members of the royal college.

However, Mr Trevor Clay, the college's general secretary, said that he had been advised that under the 1984 Trade Unions Act it would be difficult to offer anything other than full membership to a new group of recruits.

The college represents 60,000 out of the country's 66,000 nursing students and a third of the 150,000 enrolled nurses.

Colthe represents the vast majority of auxiliary nurses with about 80,000 unqualified nurse members and the Nupe represents about 30,000 auxiliary nurses.

Killer's burglary 'was cry for help'

A boy stabbed a woman neighbour in the throat during a burglary that was a "cry for help" to his parents, a judge said yesterday.

Wayne Orley, aged 16, severed a main artery and vein in the neck of Mrs Eileen Simpson when she caught him in the middle of the night trying to break into her coin-op

erated television last June. She died in hospital.

Sheffield Crown Court had heard that the boy, who was 15 at the time of the attack, claimed he accidentally stabbed her when she tapped him on the shoulder and he spun round in fear. He was last week acquitted of murder but found guilty of manslaughter

and remanded until yesterday for sentence.

Mr Justice Turner said: "I accept the burglary was a cry for help because of the neglect of your parents." He ordered Orley, of Dinnington, near Sheffield, placed in the care of Rotherham social department. He must live in a community home until 1990.

Press Council witch-hunt for mole

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A witch-hunt has been launched by the Press Council to find the mole who leaked the full story behind the appointment of Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, as the new chairman of the self-regulatory body, it was disclosed last night.

Mr Ken Morgan, the council director, has written to all 33 members and expressed his outrage at the breach of confidentiality which ended in the remarkable circumstances surrounding the search for a new chairman being publicized.

The Times disclosed on Thursday how a broken romance, money and power played a key part in determining who would succeed Sir Zelman Cowen at the helm of the body which adjudicates over journalistic misdemeanours.

Lord Barber of Wentbridge, aged 68, was the first choice of the ad hoc committee given the task of finding a new chairman. Before the full council could rubber-stamp the selection, a newspaper report appeared disclosing that the peer's seven month engagement to a woman 36 years his junior was off. Lord Barber withdrew his candidature for "personal reasons."

When Mr Blom-Cooper was finally selected, after factional fighting on the council, he asked for a salary equivalent to two thirds of that paid to a High Court judge and a substantial pension payment.

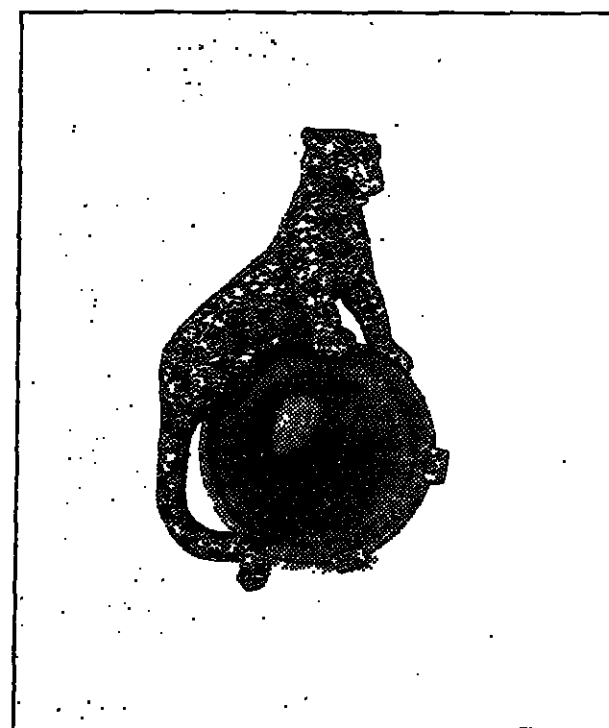
The council, which originally hoped to pay £30,000 a year for the three days a week job, agreed to pay £40,000 a year and make a £5,000 a year pension contribution.

In his letter to council members, Mr Morgan said it was clear that The Times report was based on information which had been provided by a member, or members, who had attended private meetings of the chairmanship committee and the council. "All members knew that these meetings were confidential. All were particularly asked to treat them so."

He added: "We cannot know who broke trust with the council and colleagues but whoever did so behaved disgracefully and knows it."

The issue will be formally discussed by the full council when it meets next month. The role of the council includes preserving the established freedom of the British press and reviewing developments "likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest or importance."

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Underground chief accused of false reasoning on blaze

By Tony Dawe

London Underground was accused yesterday of taking a "dangerous stance" in refusing to accept that the King's Cross fire which killed 31 people was foreseeable.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the public inquiry into the disaster, accused the company of "false points in its reasoning" during a heated cross-examination of Dr Tony Ridley, chairman of London Underground.

Mr Henderson said it was essential if lessons were to be properly learnt that the company understood its failings before the fire occurred.

Dr Ridley agreed that he was dissatisfied with the state of affairs at King's Cross on the night of the fire but he refused to accept that the company could have planned for a small fire developing into a flashover which trapped so many people.

His answers twice brought sharp interjections from Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, chairman of the inquiry.

Mr Henderson told the court that nine specific lessons should have been learned from previous fires on the Underground but many were not. The water fog system designed to damp down fires on escalators was seldom used and refresher training for supervisory staff who would use fire-fighting equipment had been stopped.

When he asked Dr Ridley whether fire should have been recognized as a significant risk on the Underground, the company chairman replied: "What was the cause of King's Cross is a matter of considerable concern to me and the points you have made about the individual steps in the chain by no means lead to any suggestion or conclusion that this increase in hazard resulted in the dreadful event at King's Cross."

"It is the current position of London Underground that the matter is not proven and that is why we are desperately anxious to have agreement among the scientists, that is why we were desperately anxious to carry out further tests at King's Cross. I am saddened to say the least that we have been prevented from doing that."

"It is vital to ascertain whether shortcomings in our procedures did relate to the scientific cause of the dramatic explosive flashover at King's Cross."

Mr Henderson said there was "grave danger involved in that stance" and asked Dr Ridley if he was saying that because of the speed of development of the fire it had been wholly unforeseeable. "That is certainly my view of the uniqueness of the King's Cross event", Dr Ridley replied. Mr Fennell interjected

to say that was the "corporate belief of every director who had given evidence".

He was questioned closely about the chain of command in the company and asked his views on why nobody from the lift and escalator engineer upwards to the engineering director was aware that the cleaning of escalators, where the fire had started, was neither being done regularly nor properly.

When Mr Henderson asked him: "Do you recognize that there were deficiencies at all the various levels?", Dr Ridley's counsel tried to object.

After a series of questions Dr Ridley agreed that "very possibly" there were deficiencies in the system.

When he failed to answer questions about fire risks on the Underground, Mr Fennell interjected to ask him: "You cannot regard fire as an acceptable hazard, an occupation hazard, can you?"

Dr Ridley replied: "There are fires and there have been smolderings on the London Underground year in and year out. They are part of the nature of the oldest, most extensive and most complex underground railway in the world. Anyone who says it is possible to act so there are no fires whatever is misguided."

The inquiry continues on Tuesday.

Thatcher backs jet-set progress



Mrs Thatcher steps over a mid-air refuelling pipe yesterday during a visit to the Cambridge airport works of an engineering company. The pipe, designed and built by Marshall of Cambridge, is attached to the front of Tristar jets formerly owned by British Airways that are converted for RAF use in flights to the Falklands. The Prime Minister said that Britain would still be labouring in a "hansom cab society" if it did not continue to develop new technologies. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Changes in fashion make 800 redundant

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs
Correspondent

Fashion changes and the success of stores such as Next have forced one of Marks & Spencer's oldest suppliers, Corah, the Leicester-based knitwear and hosiery group, to make nearly 800 of its 5,000 staff redundant.

The group, which made losses of £1.75 million last year, is closing its unprofitable knitwear divisions. It has also cut 190 jobs in its underwear and socks factories because of falling orders and slow sales.

More than 600 jobs will be lost in Leicester, where unemployment is currently 15,000; 35 jobs will go in Halifax and another 99 with the closure of the group's factory at Middleton. Warehouse and central services staff, including managers, will also be reduced by 150.

The group's problems with knitwear have been apparent for some time. Mr Nicholas Corah, the chairman, said garment-dyed cotton sweaters, once a mainstay for Marks & Spencer, had gone out of fashion. Corah's heavy dependence on that group also meant that when lines were marked down and profit margins cut, it was hard hit. Retailers also delayed taking this year's spring merchandise until after Christmas leaving the group with high borrowings.

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer said that it was "very sorry to see one of its major and longest-standing suppliers in this position."

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Masters tipped to reach £3m apiece

Christie's yesterday announced a sale of Impressionists to take place in London on June 27, including works by Monet, Van Gogh and Modigliani.

Each of the top three works is expected to fetch in the region of £3 million, not least the Van Gogh "Romans Parisiens", a large still-life painted in the artist's famous "yellow palette", which was the first picture officially exhibited by Van Gogh at the "Salon des Independents" in 1888.

Monet is represented by an oil of a vivid blue house in Zaandam, Holland, where the artist once worked. The Modigliani is one of the earliest portraits of his model, mistress and later wife.

In Amsterdam, Christie's two-day sale of modern and contemporary art finished yesterday having made a total of a little under 3 million Dutch florins (£243,000). The top price was 333,000 Dutch florins (£95,285) for a spare, mosaic-effect painting by Bart van der Leek.

At home, Christie's sale of English pictures, totalling £252,000, was left with 28 per cent unsold.

Bonhams, meanwhile, took £168,597, a record for their annual "Flower Show" sale, timed to lure the crowds bound for Chelsea, and this year attracting unusually high interest from private buyers.

SALEROOM

The top price of £12,000, as expected, went for a traditional still-life of pomegranates and other flowers by Cecil Kennedy. Gerald Cooper and the Victorian John William Wainwright also fetched high prices.

Sotheby's sale of 19th and 20th century art in Tel Aviv took \$2,107,985 (£171,102). A gouache of a vase of flowers by Chagall fetched the top price of \$302,500.

At Sotheby's in London, a sale of topographical paintings, watercolours and drawings attracted several world-record prices, including \$90,200 from the London dealer Basketh Day, for an Agustino Brunias, a scene in oils of a linen market in the West Indies. The sale made a total of \$485,898.

Also at Sotheby's, a mid-17th Century Flemish painted cabinet sold for £93,500, while a rare mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell table top went to the London dealer Jonathan Harris for £19,250. The sale made £840,510.

Twenty-eight shrunken heads and ancestral skulls, and the shrunken torso of an Ecuadorian Indian girl, which was once owned by the author Ernest Hemingway, due for auction by Christie's on June 28, were withdrawn yesterday.

PARLIAMENT May 27

New code to bring land back into use

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, is preparing a code of practice requiring local authorities to publish records of unused and underused land in their possession.

Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State, said in an adjournment debate that, most importantly, it was proposed that a similar code of practice would be adopted by other public landowners.

"All public landowners will thereby have to expose to annual scrutiny an account of their own holdings of unused and underused land with its debts and credits and the current balance."

Initiating the debate, Mr Anthony Steen (South Hants, C), Chairman of the Conservative Party's urban and inner-city committee, said that about 100,000 acres of public vacant land had been registered throughout the past seven years. The 494,000 new houses promised by Mr Ridley in the next 12 years on private land could just

as well be built on public land. If the Government insisted on using greenfield, private-sector land, we are going to see a growth in market towns, particularly in the South, on a scale we cannot even contemplate."

Mr Trippier said that the trend of public land being left unused or underused was clearly downwards. If maintained, it would take less than a decade to clear.

The Government proposed to pay close regard to any evidence that there was a willing purchaser facing an unwilling vendor. The land registers could thereby reinforce market pressures.

In an earlier debate, Mrs Marion Roe, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that in the last two years, 46 per cent of land for new housing had been previously developed or was vacant land in built-up areas. In the South-east, 55 per cent of new housing was on such land.

Stalker report

Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, is expected to complete his inquiry into the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Stalker-Sampson inquiry within the next month. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a written answer.

Settle-Carlisle line

Private-sector operators with proposals for the Settle-Carlisle railway line should contact BR's special project manager, Mr Sidney Newey, at Euston, Mr David Mitchell, Minister for public transport, said.

Pen-top safety

A final draft of a British standard for pen tops is expected to draw up by a committee of the British Standards Institution in June. The new safety standard, to minimize danger to children of choking on swallowed pen tops, will be circulated for public comment before an expected publication date in December.

Procedure committee

The House agreed to a Government motion setting up the Commons Select Committee on Procedure for this Parliament.



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'Inhuman' siege leader given 12 more years

By Kerry Gill

A judge yesterday labelled a convicted murderer as a coward and inhuman for his leading role in a five-day reign of terror and torture during a prison siege at Peterhead Prison in Scotland.

Lord Cowie sentenced Malcolm Leggat to a further 12 years and said words could not express the public's "revulsion" for what he had done.

Leggat, serving a life sentence, had pleaded guilty to rioting and playing a key role in the subsequent siege at Peterhead prison near Aberdeen last September.

Two prison officers had been taken hostage and beaten with sticks by a hooded mob. Later one was paraded around the cell block roof at the end of a chain and threatened with being set alight.

Lord Cowie told Leggat: "There is a yawning gulf between the bravery and fortitude of spirit of the men you tortured and humiliated and your own cowardly and inhuman behaviour."

The 12 year sentence will be added to a three-year term imposed on Leggat, aged 25, from Glasgow, for his part in another siege last year at Perth Prison.

Lord Cowie, at the High Court in Peterhead, said he wanted to make it clear to the authorities that it should be "a very long time" before Leggat was considered for release on licence.

The judge handed out a total of 27 years imprisonment to four inmates for their roles in the Peterhead incident, which was ended by the intervention of the SAS.

The riot started when Leggat stabbed an officer in a

prison attack and about 20 hooded inmates then took control of the prison's D Hall.

Mr Bill Florence, a prison officer, who was injured, was released the next morning, but his colleague, Mr Jackie Stuart, aged 58, remained a captive until his SAS rescuers stormed the barricades four days later.

Leggat had claimed he was not the instigator of the riot although he ended up "running the show".

Sammy Ralston, aged 25, who remained with Leggat to the end of the siege, but claimed he was acting under Leggat's orders, received a sentence of seven years.

Ralston had pleaded not guilty, but the jury convicted him of rioting and holding Mr Stuart hostage. His sentence will be added to the end of the six-year term he is serving for assault and attempted robbery.

The judge said he took into account that Ralston played a lesser role than Leggat and had a less serious criminal record.

John Devine, aged 26, also from Glasgow, described as immature and having a personality disorder, was sentenced to three years after pleading guilty to reduced charges.

The fourth prisoner, Douglas Mathewson, aged 30, serving life for the murder of a former beauty queen, was convicted of rioting and holding Mr Stuart hostage. He was sentenced to five years.

The court was packed with 25 police and prison officers. The four prisoners remained impassive in the dock as sentences were handed out at the end of the five-week trial.

Aged arcade where the penny still drops



Mr John Carter, owner of Carter's Steam Fair, with some of his arcade's working penny slot machines, dating from 1910 to the 1960s, preparing for a Bank holiday weekend of entertainment at Homefield, Chiswick, west London. The machines now use tokens. (Photograph: Graham Wood).

MP urges removal of '£1 land' councillors

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

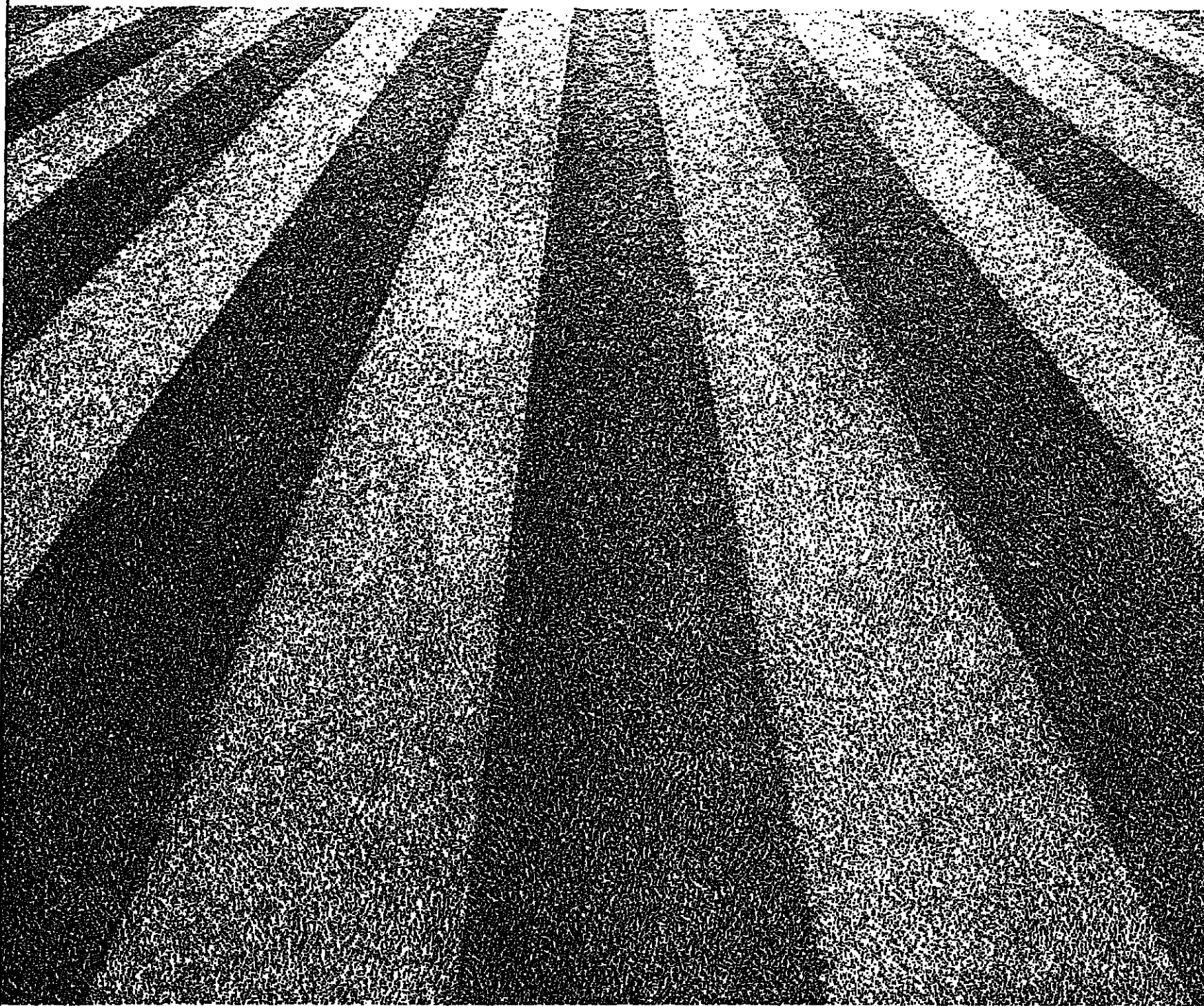
A Labour MP moved yesterday to have 43 Conservative members of Westminster City Council surcharged and removed from office for selling three cemeteries and other prime land for just £1.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington but a resident of Westminster, wrote to the District Auditor to demand a thorough investigation of the whole "disgraceful" affair.

The affair is already being investigated by the fraud squad and, on Monday night, the council's policy and resources committee decided in secret session to proceed with Compulsory Purchase Orders to regain the three cemeteries which, by themselves, are now valued at more than £2 million.

The move, which followed 18 months during which the council had staunchly defended the sale, came after floods of protests from relatives of the dead who have complained of undug graves, lack of maintenance and general shambles at the cemeteries in Hanwell, Mill Hill and Finchley in west and north London, now owned by the Wisland Group of Switzerland.

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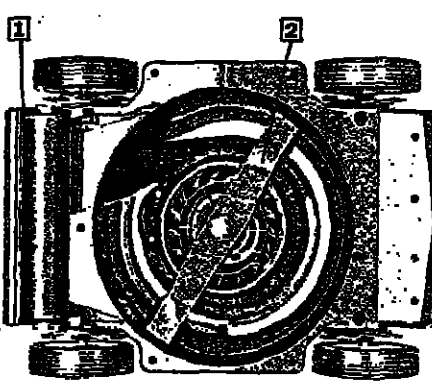


You might think the only way to give your lawn an old-fashioned finish is with an old-fashioned mower. Not true.

There's the Flymo Chevron.

Unlike other Flymo mowers it doesn't fly. Instead, it runs on wheels and has a roller (see Number 1). It's the secret of the striped finish, and the Chevron's only similarity to a cylinder mower.

Chevron mowers have an easy to maintain rotary blade. (Number 2). It's easily sharpened if necessary, and doesn't need oiling.



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Chevrons cut out fiddly blade setting, and give five precise cutting heights, down to 1/4".

The 350S, in fact, is adjustable at the tweak of a lever (Number 3).

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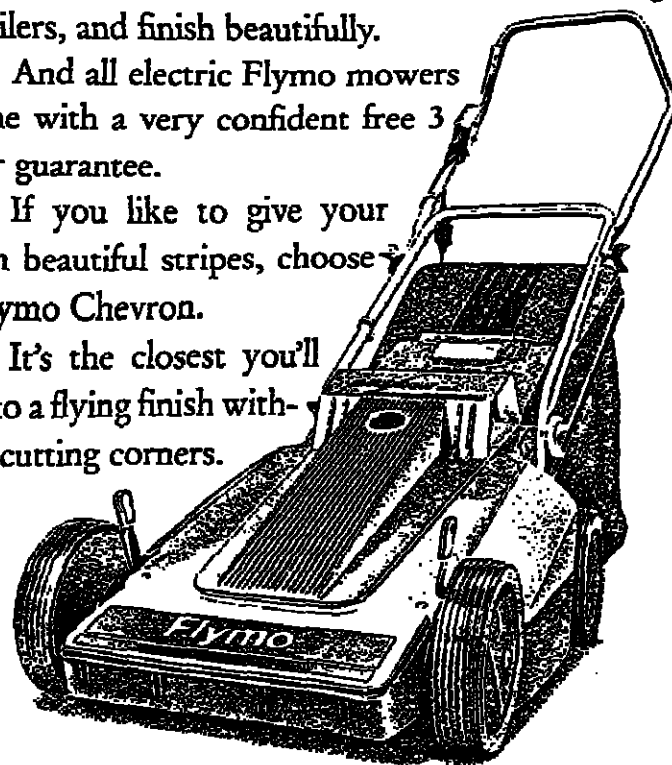
tough grass or an uneven lawn in their stride. The clippings meanwhile, are whisked away by a turbo-assisted collection system.

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If you like to give your lawn beautiful stripes, choose a Flymo Chevron.

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The Chevron. Why slowmo when you can Flymo?

RNLI proposal angers villagers

By Andrew Morgan

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution was yesterday again embroiled in controversy over plans to build a modern boathouse in the middle of a protected village in the Snowdonia National Park.

Opposition has grown in Aberdovey to the development, which was designed by the architectural firm run by Mr Prys Edwards, chairman of the Wales Tourist Board.

Last March, the RNLI was party to a development, including a new boathouse, at Llynegid, Dorset, which was rejected by a single vote by the local district council.

In Snowdonia, the RNLI has applied to replace the boathouse on the waterfront with a new building for its 21 ft inflatable boat, and a new tractor and trolley, which are seen as vital for faster launches as sand encroaches on the estuary.

The national park deferred a decision on a first set of plans, hoping that the RNLI might wait and be incorporated in the waterfront development plans of Merioneth District Council.

But the RNLI has pushed ahead and drawn up a second set of plans with a new site and a lower roof. However, opposition is still strong and the community council will discuss the plans on Wednesday.

Mr David Menhinick, chairman of the local community council, claims the development would impede the view. "The building is unnecessary and it will blight the view for the next hundred years," he said.

The RNLI rents its present boathouse from the Outward Bound School, whose students and staff provide the crew. A spokeswoman said: "We need a special tractor and trolley as the sand is increasing."

Mr Edwards said: "It is a very exciting building and will blend in well. I can't understand the objections because it will be smaller than many other buildings."

Mr John D'Arcy, the owner of the Harbour Hotel, says he opposes the plans in spite of being rescued last year by the lifeboat. "Their plans are simply not acceptable," he said.

Boating plan opposed to keep Severn 'wild'

The Countryside Commission yesterday reinforced its opposition to plans to improve navigation on the upper reaches of the River Severn.

The Severn Navigation Trust wants to make the river navigable between Stourport, Hereford and Worcester, and Pool Quay, near Welshpool, Powys. It has submitted proposals to the Severn Trent Water Authority to construct 16 locks and 15 weirs between Stourport and Ironbridge in the first phase of the work.

The scheme is one of many proposed around the country to improve rivers or obtain legal rulings to allow boats further upstream. A navigation rights case centred on the River Derwent, in South Yorkshire, already expected to have ramifications for many other rivers, will be heard next month in the High Court.

Mr David Hutchins, technical adviser to the trust and a leading light in the first restoration project in the country, the upper Avon and

the Stratford Canal, estimates the cost at £1 million for work between Stourport and Bridgnorth on the Severn, with a further £500,000 up to Ironbridge, but others say that it would cost millions.

"We helped the Avon Valley to regenerate and provided tourist facilities. We can do it for a lower cost because our labour is volunteers."

The Countryside Commission says that there are some 2,000 miles of navigable waterways and canals in England and Wales but the Upper Severn is valued as one of the last remaining "wild" rivers.

Mr Paul Walshe, for the commission, said: "Any benefits for navigation must be set against a loss of quiet, informal recreation along the river in beautiful and unspoilt countryside". The Severn water authority wants more survey work. A spokesman said that water is taken from the Severn and it was vital that abstraction and land-drainage were not compromised.

Sizewell fight rejoined

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Proposals to build a third nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast have been criticized by the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

It is also opposing plans to build power stations on other sites named by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The council has described the proposals to investigate Sizewell to see if a third station can be built there - it

would be the second pressurized water-cooled reactor (PWR) on the site - as "provocative and threatening to the Suffolk countryside".

The planned Fawley coal-fired power station in Hampshire and the Hinkley Point C station, Somerset, will be opposed by the council at public inquiries. It will propose the building of smaller non-nuclear stations.

WORLD SUMMARY

Meese loses yet another top aide

Washington (Reuter) — Mr Charles Cooper, a top aide to the embattled US Attorney General, Mr Edwin Meese, resigned yesterday, adding to the turmoil at the Justice Department which has been rocked by Mr Meese's legal problems.

Mr Cooper, the fourth high-ranking Justice Department official to leave in the past two months, headed the office of legal counsel, which provides legal advice to the Attorney General and to the President. He played a crucial role in the initial investigation that uncovered the Iran arms scandal.

"I am acutely aware, of course, that this is a time of controversy for you and for the department, and thus is not the most opportune moment for members of the department's leadership to be departing," he said in his resignation letter. But he emphasized that his departure was "wholly unrelated" to the controversy surrounding Mr Meese, who has been under pressure to resign.

Justice Department officials said privately that Mr Cooper had been concerned about the agency's growing problems in view of the long investigations, departures of other top aides and troubles in filling the vacancies.

Lisbon reform blow

Lisbon (Reuter) — Portugal's constitutional court has struck down two controversial draft laws on labour and privatisation in a serious blow to the plans of Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Prime Minister, to reform the economy. The laws, already approved by Parliament, were declared unconstitutional by the court on Thursday night and sent back to President Soares yesterday.

The draft laws, aimed at changing labour legislation which makes it almost impossible to dismiss workers, will have to go back to Parliament for rewriting, court sources said.

Battery cages banned

Stockholm (Reuter) — The Swedish Parliament yesterday approved a package of animal rights laws which the ruling Social Democrats say will make the country's farming among the world's most humane. The bill abolishes battery cages, bans the tethering of farm animals in cramped surroundings and ensures outdoor grazing for cows.

The Agriculture Minister, Mr Mats Hellstrom, also succeeded in banning docking of dogs' tails and tightening rules for keeping animals in laboratories.

Lee justifies arrests

Singapore (Reuter) — The Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew (left), yesterday defended the use of the controversial Internal Security Act, under which eight former political prisoners have been held since April 19 without trial, by saying it assured stability and progress. He told Parliament: "I'm prepared to go anywhere ... to defend and justify what we are doing" to keep communism and communalism in check.

Speaker inquiry call

Washington — Seventy-two Republican members of the House of Representatives voted to urge the ethics committee to begin an inquiry into the financial dealings of Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, filed a formal complaint alleging "highly questionable conduct" by Mr Wright involving investments in oil and gas properties.

Nato urges degree of caution

From Richard Owen
Brussels

Nato yesterday sent a message of "full support and solidarity" to President Reagan on the eve of his summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, expressing the alliance's hopes for "early entry into force" of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and "rapid progress" on strategic missiles. But Nato warned Mr Reagan against assuming that Mr Gorbachov's reformist rhetoric meant the Soviet threat had diminished.

Nato diplomats are privately bracing themselves for further disarmament proposals from Mr Gorbachov. Mr Reagan would have to consult the allies on any fresh proposals, sources said, but the next opportunity would not be until the Nato Council in Madrid on June 9.

A communiqué issued yesterday after a meeting of Nato defence ministers here said Mr Reagan was going to Moscow with Nato solidly behind him. But he was negotiating with a superpower which, although it was changing internally, remained a potent threat to Western security.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, who is to meet General Dmitry Yazov, his Soviet counterpart, said perestroika had not yet affected Russia's military posture.

The Nato communiqué said: "We have noted statements by Soviet leaders that suggest changes in Soviet thinking on the doctrine and structure of Soviet forces. But as yet there has been no visible effect on the size and growth of Soviet armed forces, which are deployed far in excess of purely defensive needs and which continue to modernise at a steady and impressive rate."

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, said that the West had to keep up its guard while negotiating with Moscow. There was no sign of any change in Moscow's military build up, its military doctrine or the "long term aims of the projection of Soviet power", Mr Younger said.

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, noted a "better mood" between East and West because of the "new man in the Kremlin". It was a relief for Europe that the superpowers were meeting



A Moscow traffic policeman getting his teeth into an American pizza yesterday. The Soviet capital is braced for an unprecedented wave of Americana, ranging from hard-currency meals of Louisiana seafood gumbo at a riverside hotel to games of baseball and a new Soviet-American soft drink, to accompany tomorrow's arrival of President Reagan and his entourage (Christopher Walker writes).

Moscowites, particularly the young, have already expressed enthusiasm for the promised invasion of soft Western culture, which will include a rock concert and a live US morning radio show broadcast jointly in Moscow and Washington.

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THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

Crucial reform victory revealed

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

On the eve of the superpower summit, evidence of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's victory over conservatives in the Communist Party appeared in a blueprint for change in the system which will be put forward with the backing of the Central Committee at next month's party conference.

Presented in the form of 10 "theses" approved by the Central Committee on May 23, but only published in full in yesterday's press, the blueprint proposed a sweeping new face for Communism through political and legal reforms aimed at ending the traditionally rigid control from the top.

Because it was endorsed by the Central Committee, the document was seen as a clear victory for Mr Gorbachov in his battle with the anti-reformers.

The most important reform, which will come up for approval at the conference, proposes limiting deputies to a maximum of two five-year terms in office, with a third term possible only if they receive a 75 per cent majority at a secret ballot election.

This proposal mirrors the new conditions for election to official posts at all levels up to and including the Politburo, the Central Committee Secretariat and its General Secretary.

A Soviet official indicated yesterday that Mr Gorbachov regarded his own position as coming within the scope of the proposed reform. If enacted, it would mean his term could expire in seven years unless a special re-election by the top leadership took place.

Mr Gorbachov, who has placed much political weight behind the proposals, said in an interview published on the eve of the Central Committee plenum that he backed mandatory fixed terms for all officials, including himself.

The Central Committee approval for the theses was seen as the most positive sign yet that Mr Gorbachov has consolidated his position against his conservative opponents.

The broadcast, presented by Washington disc-jockey Mike O'Meara — known locally for his impersonation of US public figures — and Don Geronimo, will be transmitted in English by the State-run Gostele Radio channel three and will include a short summary for the Russian audience, used to more staid breakfast time fare. "Reagan and Gorbachov won't even need a summit once we get going," enthused Mr O'Meara.

For more refined ears, George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is being produced at Moscow's Central Concert Hall, performed by a bizarre combination of artists from the US Ebony Opera Company, Finland's National Opera Choir, and the Orchestra of the Soviet

Troupe, Estonia. On Tuesday Mr and Mrs Gorbachov dine with the Reagans and 125 other hand-picked guests at Spaso House, the US Ambassador's elegant residence, and will be treated to music by the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

The baseball games are due to be played on June 1, 3, and 10 by the teams of the John Hopkins University of Baltimore and Mendeleyev Institute of Chemical Technology of Moscow. Tass reported: "The first Soviet-American baseball match in history will take place on June 1 at the Stadium of the Lenin Komsomol motor works. This will be a meeting between the inventors of the game and novices, but the Soviet team 'does not intend to be easy prey'."

alleged failure of Western Europe to pay for its own defence, giving rise to fears that the next US administration may cut back its commitment.

Mr Carlucci denied that this was a "trans-Atlantic irritant", and said that to avoid further "finger-pointing" America and Europe would look jointly at ways of maintaining effective defences.

In a move seen as positive for future "burden-sharing", the defence ministers resolved a dispute over the relocation of a tactical wing of 72 US F16 fighters based in Spain

for the defence of southern Europe.

Subject to approval by the Italian Parliament, the F16s are to be rebased in Italy, at a cost of \$300 million. The bulk of the cost will be borne by Nato's infrastructure fund.

The Nato communiqué said alliance members had to share the "roles, risks and responsibilities" of Western defence. This posed "serious challenges" for the future, not least in updating conventional forces, the statement said.

WASHINGTON: The Senate has removed an important obstacle to approval of the

INF Treaty and was poised yesterday to ratify the accord in time for the summit (Mehsin Ali writes).

The 100-member chamber voted 72 to 27 to prevent any US administration from re-interpreting the Treaty in future without the Senate's approval.

That constitutionally important compromise amendment was attached to the treaty's ratification resolution and does not require any renegotiation of the text with Moscow.

Keys to success, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Arms talks head a full agenda

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Months of intensive pre-summit planning, including regular sessions between Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and his American counterpart, Mr George Shultz, have ensured that the fourth Gorbachov-Reagan meeting will be conducted under four basic headings, with the agenda itself likely to provide few surprises.

Arms control: The drama has been largely taken out of the meetings on this issue because of the tacit admission in advance by the superpowers that the original aim to achieve a new treaty cutting strategic nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent will not now be reached in Moscow; both Soviet and American officials acknowledge that much of the attention will now be transferred to trying to ensure that such an agreement can be signed before President Reagan leaves office next January, possibly at a fifth summit, the timing and venue of which could be the surprise element in the Moscow talks.

Senior American officials told reporters yesterday that no attempt would be made to assign a strategic arms reduction treaty in principle; instead, the two leaders would be concentrating on providing instructions which would give fresh impetus to the talks underway already in Geneva, where considerable progress has been made.

Outstanding problems include the question of sea-launched cruise missiles and continued quibbling over the extent to which Washington can press ahead with its Star Wars programme while at the

same time preserving the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty signed in 1972.

As a compensation prize, this week's virtual collapse of conservative opposition in the US Senate to the INF Treaty has made it highly probable that instruments of ratification for the pact, originally signed in December, will be ready for exchange during the Moscow meeting.

Human rights: Pre-summit manoeuvring by both governments, and President Reagan's determination to press ahead with hosting a controversial meeting in Moscow for Jewish refuseniks and other dissidents, have ensured that this hardy perennial may yet prove the issue to sour the summit bonhomie.

The Americans have refused to publish the guest list in advance, but many of the best-known dissidents and longest running refuseniks are understood to be on it.

Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, has dismissed the choice of guests as "tendentious", but, at a series of briefings yesterday, American officials remained unrepentant; last-minute attacks in the Soviet press indicated that Mr Gorbachov planned to take the offensive over alleged human rights violations in the US.

Senior US officials who have documentation on 2,000 would-be Jewish emigrants refused permission to leave the Soviet Union under false pretences, were sarcastic about the Soviet charges.

Regional issues: Following last month's Geneva accord

ensuring the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan after 8½ years of occupation, many observers believe that regional issues — so often the source of acrimonious debate — might yet provide the Moscow summit with its best chance of progress.

The key areas which will be brought to the negotiating table include Angola and South Africa, Ethiopia, Central America, Indo-China, the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq

Regional issues may provide best chance of progress

war, with the latter already the cause of American disappointment that more Soviet pressure has not yet been applied to Iran as originally envisaged under the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Soviet officials have this week singled out the Middle East crisis and moves towards an international peace conference as providing the main hope for agreement, but at a special pre-summit briefing yesterday, senior US sources tried to play down the chances in this area.

The Americans pointed out that Washington was still inclined to promote direct contacts between nations in dispute rather than the full-blown international conference now favoured by Moscow. The Americans saw the recent pull-out of 50,000 Vietnamese troops from Cambodia as a good omen and maintained that progress was possible on Angola. They have rejected the Soviet move to include the Cyprus problem

for discussion at the summit, and have hinted that one US aim will be to discuss ways of preventing violence by North Korea marring this year's Seoul Olympics.

Bilateral issues: Described with refreshing honesty at a pre-summit briefing yesterday, by a senior US official as "justly stupefying to most sane people", the unglamorous fourth category of bilateral issues is set to provide a series of low-key but positive agreements which will be unaffected by fireworks elsewhere on the summit agenda. Top of the list is an almost-completed accord to open joint cultural and information centres in Moscow and Washington which, if agreement is reached, would provide the focal point for increasing exchanges which have been gathering momentum since the Geneva "fireside-summit" in November, 1985.

A wide range of other potential bilateral agreements is also up for consideration at the summit, including a new fisheries accord dealing with conservation and research; scientific and technical co-operation, especially in the field of transport safety; and growing "people-to-people exchanges", mainly involving the young.

The US has reacted coolly to Mr Gorbachov's suggestion of a joint US-Soviet space mission to Mars. But other, less ambitious space projects, will be negotiated, as well as new meetings between military officials, such as that in Switzerland earlier this year between the US Defence Secretary and his Soviet counterpart.

MY BATTLES WITH THE BEER

Why was there a cold war between the Corporation and Mrs. Thatcher's government?

What was the truth behind the headline-making rows: the *Panorama* libel case, the Princess Michael of Kent fracas, the 'Secret Society' affair?

Alasdair Milne looks back at his career with the BBC, and at the five turbulent years as Director General before his abrupt sacking in 1987.

The Memoirs of Alasdair Milne, former Director General of the BBC.



This Sunday in

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The perfect Sunday

Reagan: 'Let bells ring for freedom'

Continued from page 1

released. There remains no reason why the Soviet Union cannot release all people still in jail for expression of political or religious belief, or for organizing to monitor the Helsinki Act."

Mr Reagan said human rights could be guaranteed only by complete independence of the judiciary, popular control over those who made the laws, a secret ballot and the freedom of citizens to associate and act for political purposes or for free collective bargaining.

He said democracy and liberty were the guarantees of prosperity, proving incredibly fertile in what they have brought forth in the human

spirit. And he compared the record with that of communism — which he tactfully referred to not by name, but as a brutal and barren utopianism — "the freedom of imposed perfection."

Mr Reagan's speech, a major restatement of US and Western values which carefully balances criticism of the Russians with praise for recent advances, may not go down well with next week's hosts. The Russians have already voiced their irritation at being lectured by Mr Reagan on human rights.

Mr Reagan said the greatest hope for survival and success, peace and happiness, was human freedom. His talks with Mr Gorbachov, he said, would be towards a safer

world when the Helsinki Final Act guided their countries "like a great beacon of hope to all mankind for ages to come".

Mr Reagan's delivery yesterday was unusually flat and lifeless. He left his audience somewhat puzzled by pronouncing the French philosopher Albert Camus to rhyme with the word "famously" and left almost all the audience bewildered at the end when he broke into Finnish that was incomprehensible to any Finnish speaker.

However, his eloquent speech is important in a Finnish context, as is his official visit here, the first by an American President for many years.

LONDON: Two Russian Jewish refuseniks have been

threatened with arrest if they try to take up an invitation to meet President Reagan while he is in Moscow, according to a support group in Britain (Andrew McEwen writes).

Mr Roald Zelichenok, aged 51, and Mrs Elena Keiss, aged 46, both former electronics engineers living in Leningrad, were sent invitations by the American Embassy. Mr Zelichenok told the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry in London that Soviet officials warned him that he would be arrested if he tried to catch a train for Moscow.

Mrs Joyce Simson, a spokeswoman for the campaign, said that despite this Mrs Keiss went to catch a train and was arrested and held for several hours.

From the Crimea to Tashkent: a survey of three months' Soviet political unrest in 1988

The simmering superpower

FEBRUARY

2nd: Tarta, Crimea Estonian nationalist demonstration was broken up by riot police.

4th: Simferopol, Crimea More than 2,000 Crimean Tatars meet at Lenin's monument. Twelve people destroyed their passports during meeting and declared a hunger strike.

7th: Bekapa, Tashkent Obiast Some 1,500 Crimean Tatars marched to headquarters of city party committee. They carried slogans saying "End repression", "Democracy and glasnost also for Crimean Tatars", "We appeal to brotherly nations to support Crimean Tatars".

14th: Stepanakert Start of ethnic unrest in Armenia demanding transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region of Azerbaijan to Armenia.

16th: Vilnius, Lithuania Human rights activist, Nijole Sadunaitis, arrested by KGB. Many homes and telephones of members of human rights movement in Kaunas and Vilnius were cut off. Old Lithuanian national flag was hoisted at office of director of television. Militia arrived shortly after, removed flag and dispersed crowd that had gathered. Thirty-two arrests.

In the evening, the cathedral and nearby streets were filled with 4,000-10,000 people. Many brought flowers and pine branches. They sang hymns and the Lithuanian national anthem. After service, people walked through the town centre holding white flags to indicate peaceful intentions.

17th: Lithuania Several thousand people attended church services held for freedom of Lithuania.

Kaunas, Lithuania Militia detained three young people who tried to place flowers on monument to Lithuanian poet, Matulaitis. By 6pm, church was full. After service, more than 2,000 people marched towards cathedral, singing Lithuanian national anthem.

Tamsa, western Siberia Disturbances at state university and polytechnic. Movement supported by students from Siberian Metallurgical Institute in Novokuznetsk, the Mosibirsk Electrotechnical Institute and Novosibirsk University. Students were "discontented with the system of instruction" at military department of the institutes.

Stavitsa, Lithuania Some 600 people gathered at St George's church, where they sang hymns and Lithuanian national anthem, and read poetry.

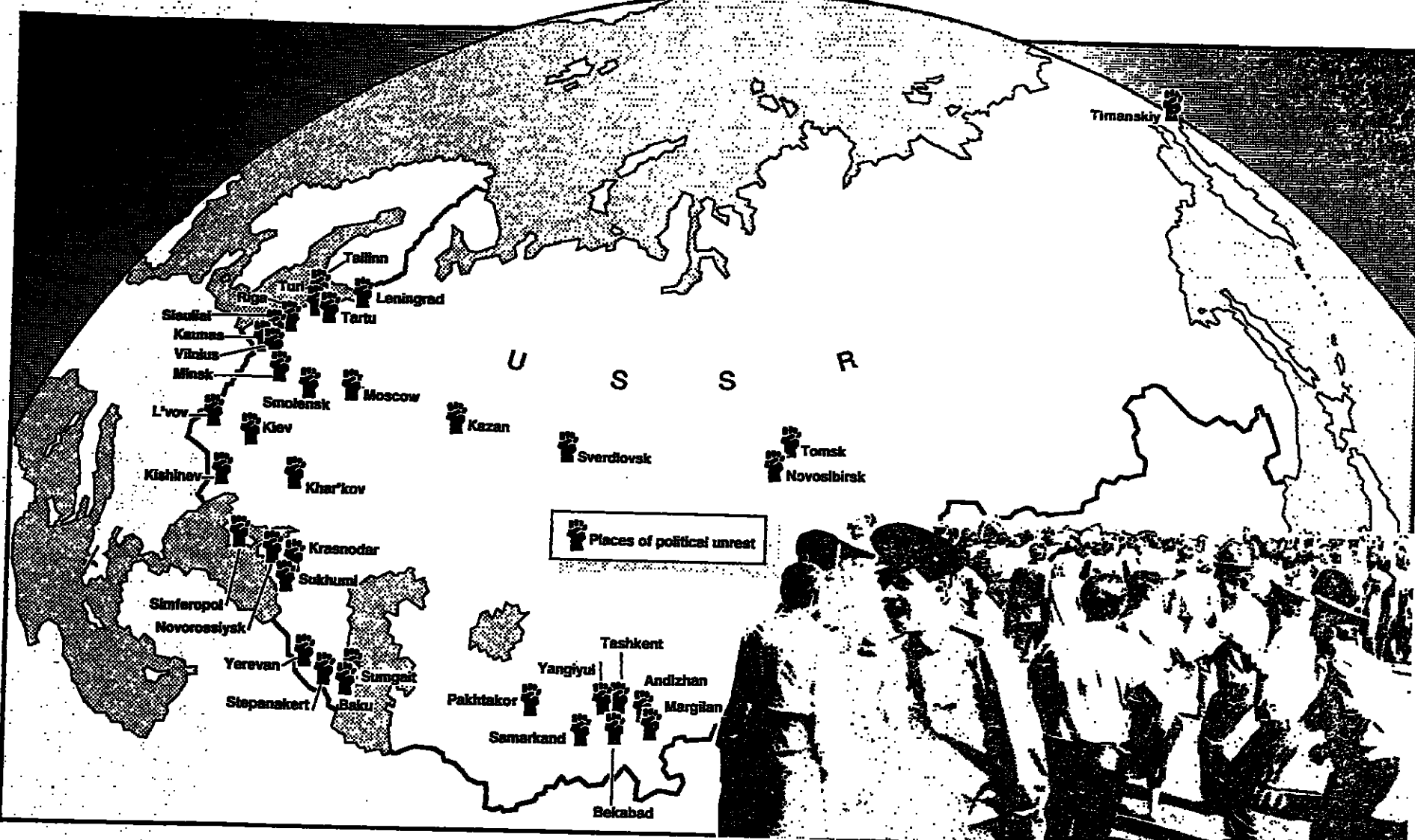
18th: Yerevan Armenian protests spread to regional capital. 19th: Moscow At 7.30pm in Pushkin Square, Yuri Krasnourudsky, Asya Mashchiver (or Lashiver) and Irina Krivova demonstrated against army service. After four-five minutes, they were arrested and taken to a militia station. Released 30 minutes later.

21st: Margiana, Soviet Central Asia 400 people demonstrated against "brutality" of authorities. Militia beat protesters with truncheons and rifle butts. Ten people were badly hurt, and 20 arrested. They were released in the evening.

Yasvili, Tashkent In the morning, centre of town, including square by town party headquarters, cordoned off by militia. About 700 people gathered, demanding restoration of the Crimean ASSR, and release of Reshat Ablayev and Sinovera Kabirova. The militia tried to drown out speakers by using their own public address system, demanding dispersal of crowd. They declared: "Comrade agitators, stop the meeting. Your gathering is illegal. Stop deceiving the people." A car then arrived with a yet more powerful public address system. The meeting was told it had not been authorized by the town council and so should disperse. The protesters' public address system was not as powerful as those used by the authorities. When the crowd could not hear their own speakers, they shouted "Our country, our country" and "Freedom to political prisoners".

23rd: Moscow Following appeal in journal *Emigration for Everybody*, protest against Soviet totalitarianism and militarism was held near the Mossoviet building at 7pm. Approximately 40 people participated, including Swedish and Swiss pacifists. Militia pushed protesters into buses and took them to militia stations 108, 17 and 6. Sergei Lanikan and Vladimir Semenov were fined 40 roubles (40) and 30 roubles respectively. Aleksandr Rubchenkov received summons to appear in court next day.

24th: Leningrad Four people staged anti-military protest on Bolshoi Prospekt to mark 70th anniversary of Soviet military forces. They were arrested by militia and taken to Petrograd regional court. Ekaterina Podolskaya, Aleksandr Khramov and Vadim Lishitz were sentenced to 15 days' jail.



MARCH

1st: Leningrad Twelve people began hunger strike, demanding that group called "Pamyat" be allowed to register.

2nd: Armenia and Azerbaijan Strike in Stepanakert continued despite threats from officials. First secretary of district committee gave ultimatum for strike to end before midnight. Strike and demonstration continued, and ultimatum was put back further 12 hours.

Moscow Yuri Petrovsky unfurled placard near Pushkin statue which read "Freedom for political prisoners in the Soviet Union". Passers-by asked him how many political prisoners there were nationally, which organization he represented, and what the charges were against the prisoners. Two militia men approached him, removed the placard, and took him to Militia Station 108.

4th-12th: Tashkent Activists of Crimean Tatars' national movement, Rust Ablyanov, Fazil Iskenderov and Reshat Ablayev, were arrested. They were released in the evening.

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27th: Moscow Demonstration held at Stolesnikov Park for release of political prisoners. Among the participants were Igor Tarkov, Yuri Denisov, Valeria Novodvorskaya, Kiril Podrabinek and Alexei Zavrzhin. At same time, another protest was held by Anatoli Petrunovskiy on Gorky Street. All demonstrators detained and held at Militia Station 108. Asya Lashchiver detained in Gorky Street with sticker on handbag reading "Freedom for political prisoners". Demonstrators detained by militia for several hours and then sent to people's court of Frunze district. Novodvorskaya and Petrunovskiy fined 50 roubles each. 28th: Sumgait At least 32 killed, 197 injured and 12 Armenians raped in worst violence of ethnic troubles as thousands of Azerbaijanis launch "pogrom" against Armenian community.

Nizhnyaya Pakovka, Krasnodar Region About 4,000 Crimean Tatars demonstrated for right to return to Crimea. 29th: Novosibirsk Employees of savings banks in district went on strike for better working conditions.

6th: Moscow Editorial board of *Express Kirovka* invited all editors of independent publications nationally to meeting planned for May 7-8 in capital. Meanwhile, Valeria Novodvorskaya organized meeting calling on human rights activists to reject the slogan "respect your own Constitution and laws", and concentrate their efforts on spreading among the people "ideas of pluralism, and of a multi-party system". Elsewhere in the capital, a demonstration took place in October Square to coincide with the 35th anniversary of Stalin's death. More than 100 people took part. Victor Kuzin, Yuri Skubko and Mikhail Kovalenko displayed a placard by the Lenin statue and stood there for five minutes. On another corner, the KGB tore away a placard from Yuri Mitinov, who stood by the entrance to the Metro station. The KGB and militia beat Novodvorskaya and Evgeniya Debrinskaya. The placard they held, reading "No to political repression", was trampled on. Yuri Mitinov was beaten at Militia Station 2. The trial took place immediately after in the presence of a people's judge of the Oktyabrskaya district. At Militia Station 59, 12 people were allowed to go without paying fines. According to another people's judge of the district, Vladimir Raizman, Leonid Miller, Victor Sergeyev, Anatoli Petrunovskiy and Igor Tarkov were given 15 days' in prison, Aleksandr Khatov, 20 days, Sergei Lomakin, five days, and Evgeny Krashenikov, two months' corrective labour. Fights between ethnic gangs in Moscow - 10 dead or seriously injured.

L'vov, Ukraine Regional committee of Komsomol (party youth group) organized meeting with informal groups to discuss the role of party in "perfecting" democracy and informal groups.

7th: Alibalyk, Tashkent About 150 Crimean Tatar women gathered by the city committee of party. First secretary of city committee received a declaration on nationality question.

7th-9th: Moscow and Leningrad: Three-day hunger strikes by Jewish women *refuseniks* - also reported in Riga, Kiev, Minsk, Kishinev, Kharkov and Chernovits. On both dates, unofficial meetings, about 300-strong, held at Moscow Armenian cemetery.

10th: Moscow Forty Jewish *refuseniks* protested on steps of Lenin Library, and detained.

15th: Smolensk, Byelorussia There was an official meeting in the House of Culture of Railwaymen, attended by 1,000-2,000. Participants demanded closure of factory on safety grounds, alleging that overflow of mercury was dealt with manually and that casualty figures were suppressed.

15th-17th: Stepanakert, Azerbaijan Two-day general strike.

16th: L'vov, western Ukraine A youth club called "Druya Lva" (Friends of Lvov), together with the Trust Group, held an anti-pollution meeting, authorized by the city council and attended by about 100 people.

18th: Simferopol, Crimea In the village of Nikolaevka, 23 Crimean Tatars demonstrated. As a result of subsequent discussions, four families of Crimean Tatars who had come from the village of Teplovka were allowed to register as residents in the Crimea.

19th: Smolensk Demonstration against pollution of atmosphere with mercury. Main

source of contamination allegedly light bulb factory. Sakhum, Georgia 7,000 attended demonstration against industrial pollution in the Gudautsky district.

Tyumen region, Siberia At night, placards were hung in the village of Komsomolskiy reading: "We are a national society of young people and we struggle for human rights, for democracy. We are not slaves of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

20th: Moscow Seventeen Crimean Tatars stood at Lenin Library at midday with placards saying "Communists, return Crimea to Crimean Tatars". "Crimea is indivisible". Some held photographs of Lenin and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Simferopol About 3,000 people gathered at noon in Lenin Square. Authorities suggested that everybody should move to Shevchenko Park, and Crimean Tatars raised their placards demanding autonomy and, in an organized column, walked half a mile to the town centre.

Bekabad, Tashkent There were meetings of Crimean Tatars in Almalyk, Chikchiga, Yangi-Yul, Almazar and Safare, in the Tashkent region. About 3,000 people took part. In some of these towns, Crimean Tatars were offered premises to conduct their meetings. Arrests were made.

Tashkent About 200 Crimean Tatars gathered in Revolution Square opposite Hotel Uzbekistan. They discussed the appeal to next national plenum of Communist Party concerning nationality problems. Meeting closely observed by the Minister for Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, the Procurator of Tashkent and high-ranking officials, who did not interfere.

21st-25th: Yerevan Meetings and demonstrations against article in *Pravda* entitled "Emotions and Reasoning" on events in Nagorno-Karabakh. About 10,000 demonstrators marched from print works to Opera House, giving out copies of article. Demonstrations continued.

24th: Kiev, Ukraine About 250 demonstrators demanded an end to anti-Tatar campaign and autonomy for Crimean Tatars. Local head of militia, and his subordinates destroyed placards and tried to arrest demonstrators.

25th: Riga, Latvia Father Leonid Abashev from Riga Alexander Nevsky Church led memorial service for innocent killed during Stalin's deportations in 1949. About 10,000 people attended. Authorities did not interfere. In afternoon, people began to bring flowers to Statue of Liberty and by evening it was covered with them. The people were surrounded by the militia and the KGB. Several times the authorities ordered: "Clear the pavements! Go away! Do not force us to extreme measures!" By evening 4,000-5,000 people joined protest. Speeches and songs began.

Troops from Ministry of the Interior and students from naval institute appeared in the crowd. Through loudspeakers they declared that they would stop transport and close all entrances. Lenin Street was closed. At 7pm, they started to disperse the crowd, pushing people into cars. Up to 50 people detained. Films were taken from all cameras and exposed. Later that evening, 50 young people gathered by

Larvian University. Carrying candles, they sang songs and marched towards the monument of Yanis Rainis.

Moscow Asya Lashchiver, Evgeniya Debrinskaya, Andrei Novikov, Lev Moshinskiy, Vyacheslav Dekhtyarev, Dmitri Starikov, Natalya Fedkova and Dmitri Pergament demonstrated by the monument to Yuri Dolgoruky against nationality policy. All the demonstrators were arrested by militia and KGB. They were beaten in Precinct 108 of Militia Station 10.

At 5.30pm about 50 Crimean Tatars came to mosque and asked mullah to say a prayer for their return to Crimea. Mullah refused. On following Monday, the Tatars read their own prayers in the mosque. At 2pm, they went into the street and opened placards. After 10 minutes, militia arrived and asked them to leave. They refused and sat on the ground. About 20 militia men threw themselves on the demonstrators, tore away their placards and took them to a militia station. After four hours they were released.

Tallinn, Estonia A meeting by the monument to Tamsaare was held on the 39th anniversary of the deportation of the population of Estonia. Two thousand attended. Ten people held. 26th: Moscow Kiril Podrabinek, member of editorial board of *Express Kirovka*, held a placard in the subway of Nogaia Square reading "Freedom for political prisoners" and distributed leaflets. After 10 minutes he was detained, taken to Militia Station No 26, searched, and the *samizdat* material, letters and an invitation to the French Embassy, were taken away. He was given a receipt and a summons for March 29 to people's court.

Andizhan, Uzbekistan 2,000 demonstrators carried placards demanding national autonomy for the Crimea.

Bekabad, Tashkent Authorities allowed 400 Crimean Tatars to hold a meeting to discuss activities of state commission on the nationality question.

27th: Moscow About 80 people gathered outside the Armenian church. Speakers complained about the way events in Armenia and Azerbaijan were reported in Soviet press.

28th: Stepanakert Factories, schools and cargo rail services closed down by striking Armenians.

Yerevan About 500 people gathered at Lenin's Square demanding the release of those arrested.

29th: Moscow 50-strong demonstration on behalf of detained Armenian activist Paryur Arkan.

APRIL

1st: Novosibirsk A performance of the play "Dictatorship of Conscience" was interrupted. Using the microphone, a member of the audience suggested that the complex of buildings occupied by the KGB should be given to the Health Service or to the Ministry of Education. Alexander Kuznetsov, who was playing the role of Potashov, the judge who presided over Lenin's trial, welcomed this speech with a bang from his hammer and said, "It is right".

2nd: Yerevan On 30th March Elena Sirotenko, the wife of

Parur Arikyan, together with her children, had visited the Central Committee. The children's shirts carried the slogan "Our father, Parur, is in prison. Free our father! Militia men seized her, took away the children, and one by one took them to buses tearing away the children's shirts. 700 people demonstrated for the release of Parur Arikyan. The demonstration was disbanded by the militia.

5th: Leningrad A general meeting of the unofficial "Miloserdie" (Charity) group was organized by the official Soviet Committee for the Defence of Peace. However, the Official Council for Religious Affairs refused the Church Commission permission to meet members of Miloserdie or to take part in their charitable work.

7th: Azerbaijan The Nagorno-Karabakh students committee held a one day sit-in at the state university.

12th: Sverdlovsk, Russian Federation A meeting to organize regional conference of

informal groups took place in Komsomol building.

17th: Moscow An evening in memory of Nadezhda Mandelstam took place in the House of Culture in Perov district, Moscow. More than 400 people attended.

Samarkand, Uzbekistan A demonstration of Crimean Tatars took place by the monument to Lenin. The speakers condemned the work of a government commission on the Crimean Tatars. When they refused to disperse, the militia began to hit and drag people.

Novorossiysk, Russian Federation 1,000 people demonstrated against the distribution of a leaflet alleged to contain "insulting chauvinist insults against the Crimean Tatars".

Leningrad A meeting dedicated to the memory of the Jewish people was held in the Jewish cemetery with the permission of the authorities.

Sverdlovsk, Russian Federation A demonstration was held against the arrest of the Armenian human rights activist, Parur Arikyan.

Kiev, Ukraine A member of the Ukrainian Cultural Ecological Club held a meeting in memory of some of the contributors to Ukrainian culture and science at the Baikov Cemetery. Wreaths were laid on the grave of the historian Vladimir Antonovich, the writer Boris Grinchenko, the poetess Lesi Ukrainki.

Tashkent A meeting of Crimean Tatar students took place in the Taiman Park. The militia tried to end the meeting but nobody was detained.

29th: Riga A demonstration was staged against pollution by the Slyut celluloid factory.

30th: Dedovsk, Moscow A meeting of the unofficial Federation of Socialist Clubs was attended by about 150 people who came from more than 20 cities.

18th: Tallinn, Estonia A club entitled "Forum" was founded, organized by the Union of Journalists of Estonia.

19th: Lithuania An appeal was launched by the League for the Freedom of Lithuania calling on the people of Lithuania to participate in meetings and mass prayers on 22nd May dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the deportations from Lithuania.

20th: Minsk, Byelorussia In Orsha on the birthday of Hitler, about 80 monuments were destroyed in the Jewish cemetery.

Tallinn, Estonia A petition is being circulated in factories, offices and educational institutes expressing no confidence in the government of Estonia. The petition circulated at the Pioneer Factor reads: "We, the workers, wholeheartedly support the decision taken at the plenum of creative unions to support the new policies of the General Secretary, Gorbachov. We express our vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR."

23rd: Kazan, Russian Federation The Kazan ecologists held a meeting and demonstration, allowed by the district committee, against the construction of the Tatar nuclear plant on the anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The meeting began at the entrance of the university in Kazan and continued in the square by the district committee building.

Moscow A conference of the international section of the Federation of Journalists. This section has been created by representatives of some of the independent journals in Moscow, Riga, Leningrad and other cities. The conference agreed upon a constitution and elected an executive committee which included Sergei Grigoryants, the *Glasnost* editor. One of the basic aims of this section is "the observance of the freedom of the press and the freedom of journalists in the performance of their professional duties."

24th: Moscow A meeting at the Armenian cemetery in Moscow took place on the day of the anniversary of the murder of Armenians in Turkey in 1950. The militia attempted to detain activists who were gathering signatures, calling them provocateurs. The Armenians declared: "We are not provocateurs, we are the people! You had better establish order in Sumgait."

Vyalki, Moscow A meeting of Jews to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the state of Israel took place.

26th: Kiev, Ukraine An ecological meeting on the anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe took place, organized by the unofficial Ukrainian Cultural Ecological Club. Shortly before the meeting, members were summoned to the procurator's office of the Radziansky region. The procurator's office recommended that the meeting should not take place as the security agencies were not able to guarantee the security of the participants. The demonstrators raised their banners which read "Down with nuclear stations in the Ukraine", "Nuclear stations are death" and "No to future Chernobyls". An hour later people in civilian clothes tore the banners and detained about 50 people. They were taken to different militia stations, then released after having their names registered.

Olesia Shevchenko was arrested for 15 days for "deliberate disobedience against workers of the militia".

Leningrad Between 400 and 500 people gathered by the Kazan Cathedral to mark the Chernobyl catastrophe. The meeting was not authorised. Speakers pointed out the dangers of the nuclear plant about 30 miles away.

Riga, Latvia A memorial ceremony dedicated to victims of Chernobyl took place near the monument to the Latvian poet, Rainis. About 100 people with burning candles stood in a half-circle by the monument.

27th: Riga A demonstration against the construction of an underground railway took place, organized by the Riga "Greens". It was allowed by the authorities and attended by more than 10,000 people. The militia did not interrupt.

28th: Moscow A meeting of Perestroika 88 was held at the Palace of Youth to discuss founding a democratic union and of attracting members from official as well as unofficial groups. About 300 Komsomol workers were present.

Tashkent A meeting of Crimean Tatar students took place in the Taiman Park. The militia tried to end the meeting but nobody was detained.

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● In vanguard of editors' group on press freedom ●

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Peres gives Labour youthful image for coming poll battle

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Israeli Labour Party has given itself a face-lift to try to attract the younger and more dovish in the scheduled November general election. It has for the first time allowed its grassroots to pick some candidates, rather than leaving the job to the party's Appointments Committee, where patronage and nepotism were often as important as ability.

The choice was made with some of the razzmatazz of an American party convention at a Tel Aviv conference hall on Thursday by the 1,267 members of the party's Central Committee. The names they selected have now been added to those of the 23 candidates already chosen to represent special interest groups such as the young, the Arabs, the poor, and the kibbutz movement.

Another six candidates have automatically been given the top places on the party lists. They include Mr Shimou Peres, the party leader, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, and Mr Uzi Baram, the general secretary, who has been responsible for introducing the new system of selecting candidates by a secret ballot of the Central Committee. Mr Ezer Weizmann and two of his supporters have also been promised realistic places on the list.

These allocations mean that 32 of the places were already taken, leaving the 84 other

candidates to fight for the remaining 29 places.

Those fighting include all the party's current cabinet ministers, two former chiefs of staff, and the veteran elder statesman of the party, Mr Abba Eban. Three of the present Knesset members, however, failed to win a place and the committee decided by a large margin to go for youth and for the widest possible spread of interests.

Two popular choices have a background that would have made them natural candidates not long ago for the rival Likud party, which derives much of its support from poor immigrants from Arab countries. One of them, Mr Eli Dayan, the Moroccan-born mayor of Ashkelon, began his political career with Likud but has now joined Labour.

The other is Mr Amir Peretz, the charismatic mayor of Sderot development town and a vigorous campaigner for peace. He argues that money spent on building settlements in the occupied territories should instead go on improvements to the depressed development towns inside Israel itself.

Another young and gifted candidate is Mr Yossi Beilin, one of the closest aides of Mr Peres. Mr Beilin is currently political director-general of the Foreign Ministry and has been closely involved in planning Mr Peres' strategy in his

attempt to keep the peace process alive.

Mr Rabin also has a close aide on the list with the selection of Mr Micha Goldman, who has worked closely with him for years.

One candidate who might be able to help the party pick up some of the support it has lost from the religious lobby is Mr Avrum Berg, whose father retired only recently as leader of the National Religious Party.

The aim of the list is to give it as wide an appeal as possible for an election which Labour regards as one of the most important in Israel's history and which is meant to break the political stalemate that has prevented Israel from taking a clear stand in the peace process.

The battle to decide who has a realistic chance of winning a Knesset seat will not take place until the middle of next month when the Central Committee meets again to decide the order of names on the party list.

Israel's proportional representation voting system means Labour cannot expect to win anything like 61 seats in the Knesset and only those placed in the top 30 positions can be reasonably certain of being elected. Since nine of these places are already allocated to the party leaders, only 20 or so of the remaining 52 can hope to win a seat.

Socialist millionaire brawls with Le Pen

From Philip Jacobson, Marseilles

It is barely a week since M Bernard Tapie ventured into the cockpit of politics Marseilles-style, but France's best-known industrialist has taken to this rough business with gusto. No sooner adopted as the Socialist-backed candidate for the city's sixth electoral district, M Tapie was out on the hustings slinging mud in all directions.

To the delight of many onlookers, his principal target is M Jean-Marie Le Pen, who happens to be contesting the adjoining constituency.

Under the campaign banner of "opening up political life", the M Tapie, aged 43, has already accused the National Front leader of everything from cowardice for refusing a television confrontation to "vomiting" his ideology out to the voters of Marseilles.

M Le Pen, of course, can look after himself in such brawls. "Tapie is a nothing, a clown who doesn't belong in the same league as me," he declared the other day, claiming M Tapie would "get his wings burnt here".

But although both men have been "parachuted" into the fight for National Assembly seats here, M Tapie has the singular advantage in a football-mad city of owning the successful local team, Olympic Marseilles. The visibility this affords him clearly influenced electors when they gave M Tapie's candidature a resounding 66 per cent "approval rating" against 38 per cent for that of M Le Pen.

Even so, the descent of M Tapie on the sixth district has not altogether delighted the local Socialist Party bosses. They already had two of their own members in line as can-



M Tapie: Accused the National Front leader of cowardice for refusing a TV confrontation.

didate and official replacement when the word came from headquarters in Paris — some say straight from the Elysée Palace — that the self-made millionaire businessman was to get the nod.

That was not the day's only electoral upset, either for party faithful in Marseilles. A few hours earlier the city's Socialist Mayor, M Robert Vigoroux, had been obliged to backtrack hastily on a public commitment to run against M Le Pen in the eighth district. A nasty eruption of political brawling did for the

unfortunate M Vigoroux (whose name has launched many a snide joke).

Very much a compromise candidate to succeed the legendary Gaston Defferre in the town hall two years ago, he has powerful enemies in the local Socialist hierarchy, and with municipal elections due next year the knives have been coming out in the old Marseilles tradition.

With an excellent candidate in place in the shape of the district's former Socialist deputy, M Marius Masse, his honour was briskly allowed

aside and departed with some brave words about closing party ranks to beat the unspeakable M Le Pen.

His prospects of retaining mayor after 1989 are not thought to have improved.

Naturally, this little brawls was seized upon by the mainstream right in Marseilles, itself under considerable threat from M Le Pen.

In the classic words of one senior figure, M Vigoroux had fallen victim to a Socialist version of the "hands, class and factions" that President Mitterrand had warned

French voters to beware of before he was re-elected. None of this seems to bother M Tapie much as he works the streets of his new found constituency.

If his programme appears to be limited to striving for sorely-needed new jobs in Marseilles and a new era of open politics — topped up by Le Pen bashing — perhaps that is only to be expected from the man who sees campaigning as just another marketing operation.

Although M Tapie has unbounded faith in his own ability, he has hardly been handed a guaranteed seat in a constituency with a considerable bourgeois presence.

A lot will depend on the second round strategy of the National Front.

Whatever reservations M Le Pen may entertain about committing supporters to this industrialist right in the absence of a mutually beneficial deal, he could well make an exception if it would sink M Tapie.

For once, the acknowledged master of political invective in France is up against an opponent with just as much a tongue. Tanned by M Le Pen for being a "pink millionaire", M Tapie retorted that he at least had earned his fortune and not inherited it in questionable circumstances.

Close to the bone, that M Le Pen was indeed left a rich man by the death of a close associate who, it has been suggested, may not have fully understood the will he made.

M Le Pen has always denied such allegations vehemently, and speaking on French television earlier this week, he observed, with evident relief, that while he and M Tapie were both millionaires, "his is in dollars, mine's is in votes".

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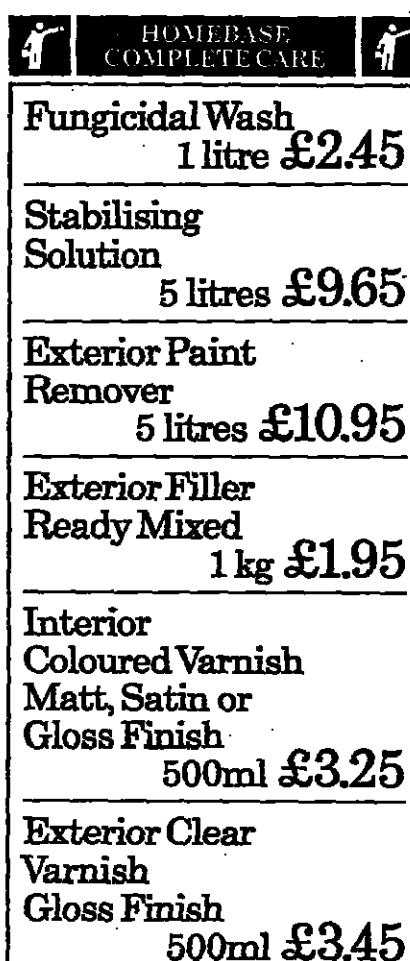
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Greece-Turkey relations

Davos pact shows first real results

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece and Turkey, brushing aside domestic scepticism, announced yesterday a series of agreements reached in three capitals, that have been designed to build up mutual confidence and ease the eventual settlement of long-standing disputes that have often brought them to the verge of war.

In Athens, the foreign ministers of the two countries formally pledged to respect each other's sovereignty as well as their right to use the seas and international air space of the Aegean.

In Brussels, Lord Carrington, Nato's outgoing Secretary General, disclosed that Greece and Turkey had lifted their vetoes on the construction of important Nato infrastructure projects in each other's territory. These had been blocked for the past three years.

In Ankara, Greek and Turkish ministers agreed to negotiate agreements on closer economic and technical co-operation, cultural exchanges and joint tourist promotions, as well as the expurgation of historical bias from school textbooks.

Mr Mesut Yilmaz, the first Turkish Foreign Minister to visit Greece in 36 years, called the agreements "modest but encouraging". He said they were the first concrete results of the conciliation process initiated in January at Davos

in Switzerland. The foreign ministers skirted the issue of dividing their nations, and left them for consideration by their prime ministers in mid-June when Mr Turgut Ozal is scheduled to visit Athens.

When he comes, he will no longer need a Greek visa, as a result of letters exchanged by the foreign ministers yesterday. From June 12 the two sides are to abolish the visa requirement for each other's diplomatic or service passport holders.

In a memorandum of understanding also signed in Athens yesterday, the foreign ministers pledged that military exercises in the Aegean would be avoided during the peak tourist season, should not interfere with civilian traffic, and should respect international regulations.

Analysts saw this agreement as a compromise whereby Turkey, without renouncing its position that Greece has right to a six-mile, rather than 10-mile, air space zone in the Aegean, will refrain from sending its warplanes to assert this claim, a practice that could jeopardize the Davos process.

Mr Yilmaz, who flew back to Ankara last night, said his Athens visit had been successful beyond expectations. Both sides have a historic opportunity, I do not think we can afford to miss it.

Blacks held over US hotel pull-out

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Lunch at the Carlton, Johannesburg's best-known five-star hotel, was a rather unusual occasion yesterday. The coffee-shop was the only restaurant open, and patrons were served at table by white staff who would normally not be found performing such lowly duty.

Police wielding batons and accompanied by dogs arrested some 245 of the hotel's black staff, virtually the entire morning shift, as they staged a protest demonstration outside the main entrance and held them until the mid-afternoon at John Vorster Square, police headquarters — for the Johannesburg region. They were released on bail paid by the hotel.

The protest was sparked by the decision last month by the United States-based group Westin Hotels and Resorts to sever ties with the Carlton because of pressure from anti-apartheid activists in America which it was feared might harm the company's worldwide interests.

On April 15, Westin terminated the contract by which it had managed the Carlton Hotel since 1972 on behalf of its owners, Amagrop, a subsidiary of the Anglo American Corporation, South Africa's biggest mining and industrial conglomerate.

Westin previously also had an 11 per cent financial stake in the hotel, but sold it to Amagrop two years ago. The protesting staff, who

included the front-door commissionaire in his gold-braid uniform, paraded with placards demanding "Westin pay us a severance bonus" and "Westin bring back your profit". Their display illustrated once again some of the ironies of the disinvestment campaign which is promoted by radical black groups and trade union leaders here.

Most of the Carlton's black staff belong to the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, which is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. Cosatu supports disinvestment by foreign companies, and in theory, therefore, the Carlton's staff should have been cheering, and not bewailing, the pull-out by Westin.

As in the case of car workers at the General Motors plant in Port Elizabeth two years ago, however, the Carlton staff say they were not consulted about the terms of Westin's withdrawal and are demanding some form of severance payment. Both Westin and Amagrop, meanwhile, were claiming yesterday that the matter had nothing to do with them.

The Carlton's departing general manager, Mr Pat Kelly, an American employee of Westin, said the hotel staff were not employed by Westin but by Amagrop and that they had already been assured that their terms of service and employment would not be affected.

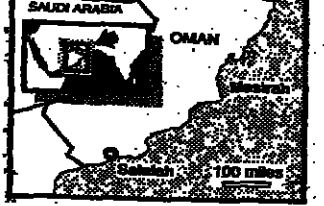
Oman's tightrope neutrality brings its diplomatic rewards

Sultan Qaboos emerges as Gulf peace broker

From Andrew McEwen, Muscat

The guardian of the Strait of Hormuz was much in demand. The Sultan of Oman, whose territorial waters include nearly half of the gateway to the Gulf, had already received the ambassadors of South Yemen, the Soviet Union, Syria and Britain. The last visitor of the day to climb the red-carpeted steps of al-Aalam Palace beside Muscat harbour was the representative of *The Times*.

"Keep it short, His Majesty has had a long day," a man from the Diwan, the Palace



secretariat, whispered. But Sultan Qaboos bin Said seemed anything but tired. Earlier in the week both Tehran and Washington had sent high-level representatives to see him; the buzz of diplomatic activity suggested more efforts to break the Gulf War stalemate. He looked and sounded elated.

Sultan Qaboos seems to thrive on the hairsplitting diplomacy which stems from his country's strategic position. His navy, operating from Giza Island base in the crook of the Strait, monitors 250 vessels a week entering and leaving the Gulf. Nearly all stay in the narrow international channel between Oman's 12-mile limit and Iran's exclusion zone.

The casualties have become almost routine: 38 attacks on shipping by Iran this year, mostly hit-and-run raids by Revolutionary Guards in speedboats in and around the Strait. Two of them happened yesterday morning. A further 31 attacks have been made by

Iraq. Somehow Oman has managed to remain on the sidelines. Its vessels are rarely if ever touched. Sultan Qaboos's policy of refusing to take sides while talking to both sides, and to all other parties involved, seems to have worked. He has become an experienced operator; he feels comfortable in this kind of diplomacy," said a Western ambassador in Muscat. But one of those closest to him confesses: "It's a constant tightrope. The slightest false move and it could all go wrong."

His success has led others to point to him as a possible future mediator between Iran and Iraq. Neither he nor senior diplomats see that as an immediate prospect; the two sides have not yet reached the necessary war exhaustion. "If there is a real opportunity, I do good I shall never say no," Sultan Qaboos said. What does seem clear is that before the United Nations Security Council's efforts can achieve anything, someone other than

regal features peer down from larger-than-life portraits in practically every public building in Muscat. In person, his finely trimmed white beard and lively brown eyes make the first impression. His attire gives no hint of the eight formative years he spent abroad, mainly in England: a traditional white dishdasha (a one-piece garment reaching to his ankles), covered by a bushi, a translucent cape of beige wool trimmed in gold lace. In his belt a khunjar, a dagger in a scabbard of worked silver, bears the symbol of a family which has ruled in unbroken succession since 1741.

Sir Anthony Parsons, who used to visit him when he was Ambassador to Iran, said Sultan Qaboos always reminded him more of an Indian maharajah than an Arab emir. His principal palace, built since he came to power in 1970, was designed by an Indian architect and seems to recall the height of Oman's power in the early 19th century, when it had colonies in Baluchistan as well as Zan-



Sultan Qaboos: Involved in moves to break deadlock.

ibar and Persia. The Sultan is known to regret the bad relations between Iran and Britain. Both countries helped him win a local war in the south of Oman which absorbed the first five years of his reign. Some see him as a future mediator of fences between Tehran and Whitehall, though the time is not yet right. "If anyone is going to talk to Iran it will be Qaboos," one source said.

It might be thought that Iran would look askance at the Sultan's links with Britain. He speaks good English, has a country house in Berkshire, and Oman is one of Britain's few foreign supporters on the Falklands issue. His Air Force and Navy both have British commanders (Air Marshal Erik Bennett and Read Admiral Hugh Balfour), a further 163 men are seconded by the Ministry of Defence to help train his forces, and about 1,500 other Britons work for the sultanate forces on contract.

Britain has arrangements allowing it to use an airbase at Masirah Island as a staging post (but not as a base). It conducted a brigade-strength exercise there with the Sultan's forces in 1986 and demonstrated the feasibility of rapid deployment to the region. The Armilla Patrol, Britain's Gulf protection force, which has accompanied 679 British-flagged vessels through the Strait, has always been able to use Omani ports. Since the deployment of mine-sweepers last year their crews have often taken rest and recreation at Wudam and Salalah.

But so far, Tehran has never seemed worried about Omani helpfulness to the British. "I don't think it matters to Iran — it is much more concerned with the long-term relationship. And the Sultan has been quite clever in keeping enough distance," said Sir Anthony Parsons. That is a widely echoed view among observers. Most of them see the Sultan's influence continuing to increase. He is only 47; there is time for him to emerge as an important regional figure.

Harare end to 'Cecil Square'

Harare (AP) — President Mugabe of Zimbabwe yesterday officially renamed the main tree-lined square in the centre of Harare, dropping the colonial name of Cecil Square by which it was known for nearly a century.

In a 30-minute ceremony watched by hundreds of white and black Zimbabweans, Mr Mugabe unveiled the name-plate of "African Unity Square". It replaced the colonial plaque commemorating September 12, 1890, the day the first white settlers (the "Pioneers" of Rhodesia) raised the Union Flag at the centre of "Fort Salisbury".

The town and the square were both named in honour of the British Prime Minister of the day.

Rebels raid river steamer

Dhaka — Eight people were killed and three others wounded when tribal guerrillas ambushed a ferry steamer and sunk the vessel after spraying it with machine-gun fire about 30 miles from the hill resort of Ranganamati in south-eastern Bangladesh (Ahmed Fazi writes).

At least 25 people escaped the massacre by jumping out of the sinking boat into the Karnaphuli River.

Plane scare

Nantes, France (Reuters) — An Italian Boeing 747 flying from New York to Milan made an emergency landing here after a bomb alert, and more than 400 passengers and crew were evacuated.

Aquino trip

Manila (Reuters) — President Aquino will visit Switzerland and Italy next month, her second overseas trip this year, and will address the International Labour Organization's annual session on June 13 in Geneva.

Aid plea

Geneva (AP) — The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has appealed to member countries for \$28 million (£15 million) for aid to refugees in Ethiopia, doubling the original budget.

Devil worship

Amantea, Italy (Reuters) — Police broke into a villa here and found one man dead while about 30 suspected members of a satanic sect, who were chained to each other, prayed in a room with money strewn on the floor.

Fatal protest

Seoul (Reuters) — Choi Dok Su, a 20-year-old South Korean student, died after setting himself on fire during an anniversary protest against the military suppression of the 1980 Kwangju uprising.

Pilots die

Hanover (AP) — A twin-propeller Danish cargo aircraft crashed and exploded near Hanover airport, killing the pilot and co-pilot.

Republican campaign torn by self-doubt and division

Mr George Bush's presidential campaign is torn by self-doubt and division. Aides are fighting over how best to drag the Vice-President out of his self-imposed seclusion and his dreary, plodding style.

He has taken extensive breaks from the hustings of late, disappearing sometimes for a week at a time from prominent public view.

And now it is becoming embarrassingly clear that President Reagan is decidedly lukewarm about his loyal lieutenant.

It is tempting to wonder whether the half-hearted endorsement that Mr Reagan gave Mr Bush a few weeks ago was deliberately bungled. The tepid comments, written by the President himself, took 45 seconds to deliver.

"I'm going to work as hard as I can to make Vice-President George Bush the next president," was essentially all he said. Since then the two men seem to have drifted apart. The President has yet to schedule any campaign events with Mr Bush, and has not even been asked to do so.

There are clear signs of a growing rift: they split over policy on Panama, and the continuing controversy surrounding General Manuel Noriega's future, and they disagree strongly about the

continued presence of Mr Edwin Meese, the embattled Attorney-General, in the Cabinet. Mr Reagan attends the Western economic summit in Toronto in late June after his Moscow summit, and he goes on holiday for much of July and August. So he will not be available to campaign for Mr Bush until September.

Even then, he will appear only rarely on behalf of the

Washington View

By Christopher Thomas

Vice-President, because he intends to make only a limited number of campaign appearances and most of those will be fund-raising appearances for Republican congressional candidates and state parties.

"We have got some political objectives beyond the presidential campaign," Mr Frank Donatelli, the White House political director, declared. "We have to fit Bush's time into a larger party framework. We have asked for the Bush campaign's wish list, but we haven't heard back from them yet."

Mr Reagan said bluntly in an interview with *The Times* this week that he and Mr Bush disagreed over dropping drug charges against General Noriega of Panama. The President has never

said such a thing about his deputy in nearly eight years in the White House. It was the strongest public indication so far that their relationship is cooling.

In another largely unnoticed departure from his boss, Mr Bush said in a California speech that the deaths of nearly a million Armenians in Turkey in the early 1900s was "genocide".

Mr Reagan, who is due to meet President Evren of Turkey in late June, stopped using the term genocide in 1981 — a fact that has angered Armenian-Americans, who Mr Bush is now courting for the crucial California vote.

The Republican Governor of California, Mr George Deukmejian, is of Armenian descent, and thus the source of many much-needed votes.

The Vice-President has conspicuously failed to defend Mr Reagan against widespread criticism of the ethical standards of some of his closest political friends.

He wants the dismissal of Mr Meese, a long-time friend of Mr Reagan's, because questions about his ethical standards are hurting the entire Republican Party, and thus are damaging to Mr Bush. The Vice-President declared pointedly in one of his surprisingly infrequent public appearances that he would set

"a high standard of ethics" as President — a dig that was not missed by White House aides. "I don't see how, if he continues to make these digs at the President, he can expect to campaign effectively with him," an administration official remarked.

Mr Lee Atwater, Mr Bush's campaign director, insisted that the Vice-President's statements were "his way of saying what he would do as President" and were not a reflection of any rift with the President.

Clearly, Mr Bush cannot drift too far away from Mr Reagan at the moment, because he wants to bask in some of the glory of the Moscow summit. Mr Bush also hopes to get some reflected glory from Mr Reagan's attendance at the Toronto economic summit.

But conservative Republicans are watching warily as the Vice-President clumsily pulls away from Mr Reagan.

They worry that he is not really one of them, and regard his choice of running-mate as the acid test of his credibility. "That's the future of the party," Mr Richard Viguerie, a leading conservative activist and fund-raiser, said.

"That's the only thing that can give validity to his claim that he's a Reaganite," Mr Viguerie said.

Bush's unpopularity extends Dukakis lead

Washington — Mr George Bush, the US Vice-President, has slipped even further behind Mr Michael Dukakis, his Democratic presidential rival, in a new *Washington Post-ABC* opinion poll (Christopher Thomas writes).

The survey gave 53 per cent to Mr Dukakis and 40 per cent to Mr Bush, a far wider margin than in any big poll so

far. However, nearly half of each candidate's support is soft and could shift.

The survey showed that Mr Dukakis is benefiting more from voters' dislike of Mr Bush and declining confidence in President Reagan and his policies than from personal appeal. Almost three out of five Dukakis supporters fall into this

category. Democratic strategists acknowledge that Mr Dukakis is having a "free ride", with publicity concentrating largely on his primary victories.

While encouraged, they worry that his popularity is based so much on opposition to Mr Bush. "The Bush forces are losing the election at this point; we're not winning it," a Dukakis strategist said.

Howe faces cool Hong Kong welcome

From Chris Pomeroy, Hong Kong

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrives in Hong Kong tomorrow on a 48-hour visit to boost morale just as the territory gears up for a two-year consultation exercise with China over its post-colonial constitution.

Few of Hong Kong's budding politicians are holding their breath. "I don't see what he has to offer us," said Mr Anthony Ng, a local councillor and member of one of Hong Kong's prototype political parties, the Hong Kong Affairs Society. "The feeling at grass roots is that things are not going very well. If anything could have been done, it should have been done three or four years ago."

The British and Chinese

governments would like to declare the Hong Kong question resolved. But outside the Governor's policy-making councils, and the business elite, there is a sense of lost opportunity.

The arrival of the Foreign Secretary does not usually mean good news. Four years ago, before the Queen's visit to China, he promised nothing on the burning issue of democratic reform. Direct elections to the legislature have since been shelved until 1991.

This year, as China pushes a constitutional blueprint that few have faith in, political activists are feeling the heat. Hopes of establishing a working democracy before China takes over are forgotten. Re-

gard for British integrity has plummeted with it.

Such pessimism was not always prevalent. From 1983 to 1985, the air was thick with talk of accountable ministerial government, political parties and universal franchise elections.

Then, in late 1985, China's representative in the territory accused Britain of deviating from its agreement to hand back Hong Kong unchanged. Overnight, democracy became a problem. Foreign Office ministers began talking of "converging" political reforms with China's plans.

Mr Joseph Cheng, a university lecturer and former chairman of the Hong Kong Observers, a lobby group, says: "1985 was the high watermark of political

participation in Hong Kong. The decline has been a gradual process. A lot of our friends are planning emigration."

Under Mr Cheng's analysis, the senior government advisers whose powerbase is the Chinese business elite, are keeping their heads down. Middle-class groups, like the Hong Kong Affairs Society, are gradually building a local structure and promoting candidates in local council elections. Grass roots groups have focused on small-scale issues.

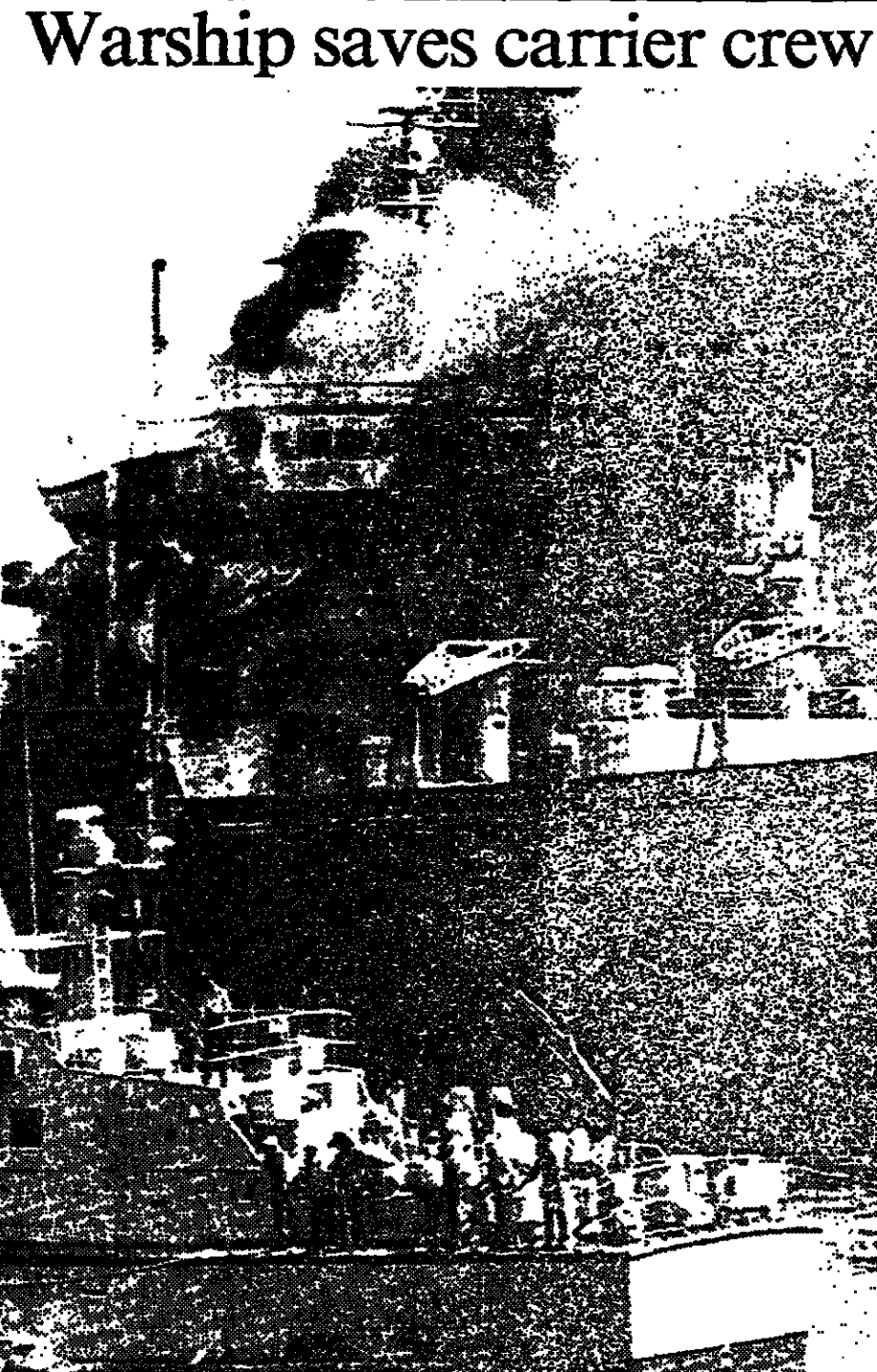
Democratic groups are gradually forming into a stronger coalition, but are fighting against decades of political apathy. Political education is still outlawed in schools, a relic of Maoist-era fears. Political parties are banned, although ironically the Chi-

nese Communist Party is now extending its influence almost openly.

Mr Cheng says: "People feel the future is not in the hands of Hong Kong people, it's in the hands of Peking."

The alliance of Hong Kong's powerful business leaders with Peking has produced a political blueprint that concentrates power in the hands of a few. "Peking no longer listens to people like us," Mr Cheng says.

Little is expected from the Foreign Secretary's visit. "He might offer to speak openly to China or debate the basic law (Hong Kong's future constitution), but it would sound pretty empty," Mr Ng says. "The events of the last few years will be difficult to reverse."

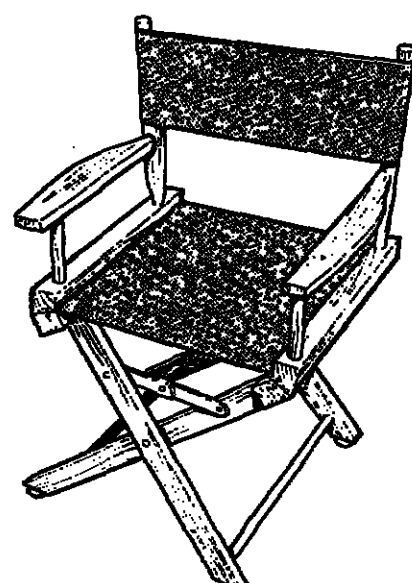


Crew members from the Maltese-flagged Don Miguel standing on board an Omani warship while watching their 18,000 tonne bulk carrier blaze after an Iranian gunboat attack in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday. The attack came as tugs were fighting a fire on the 15,530 tonne Liberian-flagged Mundogas Rio near by, which was hit earlier by Iranian gunboats.

Warship saves carrier crew

Crew members from the Maltese-flagged Don Miguel standing on board an Omani warship while watching their 18,000 tonne bulk carrier blaze after an Iranian gunboat attack in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday. The attack came as tugs were fighting a fire on the 15,530 tonne Liberian-flagged Mundogas Rio near by, which was hit earlier by Iranian gunboats.

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£167,000 for asbestos cancer

Perth (Reuters) — An Australian dying of asbestosis has won \$167,000 (£167,000) damages, 30 years after he worked as a wharf labourer carrying bags of blue asbestos.

The West Australian Supreme Court judgement in favour of Mr Colin Watson, aged 52, follows a landmark damages award to Mr Klaus Rabenalt, who is dying of cancer, in Melbourne on Monday.

Mr Watson worked for the state government between 1958 and 1960 as paymaster at Port Samson, 1,300 miles north of Perth, where he handled hundreds of bags of asbestos fibre from the Wittenoom mine.

Damages for pain and loss of life expectancy were awarded against the West Australian state government. Mr Watson, who appeared

in court in a wheelchair and with an oxygen bottle, said that his employers should have known about the dangers of asbestos.

He said later that he was elated with the decision but disappointed because he doubted it would be sufficient to provide for his wife and son after he died.

"I don't foresee I have a great deal of future left, so whatever I have got... it's not really going to be enough to cover Jo and Max," Mr Watson said.

Mr Rabenalt, also aged 52, was awarded \$168,000 damages by the Victorian State Supreme Court. He worked for six months at Wittenoom 28 years ago.

Last August doctors diagnosed his persistent cough as a symptom of the incurable

asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma, and said he had about 18 months to live.

Mr Rabenalt's damages were awarded against the operators of the now-closed mine, Midalco, a subsidiary of the Australian mining and sugar mining company CSR.

In Mr Watson's case, Justice William Pidgeon said that he had been reduced to a miserable existence by severely impaired lung function and that his life expectancy could be less than two years.

Working in dust-filled sheds or in ship holds, he had repeated spilt asbestos by hand and ended most days covered in the dust, the judge said.

The awards have further implications, as more than 300 claims have been lodged against CSR by former workers at the Wittenoom mine.

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HELSEINKI TO MOSCOW

The issue which has most deeply divided East from West in the post-war world is human rights. The Russians might have bigger missiles and more tanks, might have marched into Afghanistan, meddled in Central America and backed an unpleasant regime in Vietnam. But it is the distinction between a closed society and an open one, between the suppression of free thought and its encouragement, that has been represented in metaphor by the "Iron Curtain" and in reality by the escarpments of the Berlin Wall.

No leader of the United States, a country to which generations have fled in search of peace and freedom, can afford to ignore that fact. No president, least of all Ronald Reagan, should travel to Moscow without underlining its significance. If security rests on mutual understanding between nations, then human rights must be paramount.

It was no accident that the 1975 Final Act, perhaps the single most important benchmark in the diplomatic struggle to free the oppressed in Eastern Europe, was signed at the end of a conference on security. Nor was it any accident that Mr Reagan chose human rights as his pre-summit theme when speaking in Helsinki yesterday — in the hall where the Final Act was signed.

The message of his Helsinki address might be summed up as "so far, so good" — but the Russians have still got a very long way to go. As *The Times* survey today of the extraordinary levels of Soviet dissent shows, the people of the Soviet Union also know that they have a long way to go. And they are trying to get there — with results that are not easy to predict.

The apparent differences in Soviet society since the last American head of state to visit Moscow, Richard Nixon, arrived in 1974, are very marked. Just before Mr Nixon arrived, Moscow's police rounded up a group of dissidents, to prevent them from "spoiling" a successful East-West summit. This week, however, in exactly the same district of the capital, a street musician was seen singing a satirical song about the KGB — while a couple of local policemen watched unconcerned.

But the overall picture is patchy. Behind the surface, the USSR is experiencing a huge variety of protest and replying with a huge variety of responses. The police broke up an attempt the other day to form an independent political party and the leading "conspirators" were jailed for seven days. This punishment

was mild compared with what might have been expected for such anti-Soviet activities 14 years ago. Other punishments are little different.

Facile judgements are all too tempting today — and misleading. The American people who gave Mr Gorbachev a higher popularity rating than Mr Reagan in a recent opinion poll were comparing the Soviet leader and his reforming programme with the uncompromising severity of his predecessors. Previous waves of pro-Soviet sentiment in America, during the Second World War for example or after the death of Stalin, were swiftly followed by disillusionment and dismay.

People in the West forget that even in the age of glasnost, 13 years after the Final Act was signed, families are still divided, marriages blocked and emigration to other countries strictly rationed. For every political prisoner who has been freed, there remain many more in jail. Recent reforms are changing the face of Soviet society. But they remain only relative and the pace at which Mr Gorbachev can move is tightly governed.

It has been clear for some time that the chances of a further arms control deal at this summit would be small. But that should not in itself be disappointing. Arms control tends to be a product of improved relations, not the cause of them. A potentially unsatisfactory treaty, achieved for short-term political objectives, would do more harm than good for world security.

As it is, the two most powerful men in the world are meeting at a time of unusual optimism. The withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan, the peace talks in Central America and Angola and the slight lowering of tension in South-east Asia, have provided them with fertile ground on which to build a more stable East-West relationship.

But it is by steady progress on human rights that Mr Gorbachev could do most towards the end. To the West it would mean more than any token withdrawal of troops from Eastern Europe — or superficial proposal to establish a nuclear-free zone. The danger remains of Mr Gorbachev and his coterie being replaced by the conservative old guard who not so long ago ruled the Kremlin. The institution of human rights and civil freedom would be the best guarantee that the reform of the Soviet system is here to stay.

THE SYRIANS MOVE IN

It has been unusual in recent years for Syria to receive Western approbation for the conduct of its foreign policy. But President Assad's decision to move his army into the southern suburbs of Beirut (together with Lebanon's own troops) is worthy of at least a cautious welcome.

As fighting between rival Shia militia groups continued during the past three weeks, it had become obvious that only the Syrians were in a position to restore any kind of order. President Assad had held back from intervention, despite having moved 7,000 troops into Beirut two weeks ago, only out of deference to Iran, which remains Syria's only Middle East ally. But Iran's initial objection to Syria's intervention against its client militia group in South Beirut, the Hezbollah, was removed by negotiation.

This feat was no doubt enabled by the fact that an Arab summit is due to take place in Algiers early next month, offering Syria the chance to renege on its alliance with Iran (if it so chooses) in favour of a financial bribe from the Saudi Arabians. It is this consideration which might have prompted the Iranians to acquiesce in the Syrian action.

So begins another instalment in the long history of the Lebanese troubles. There is nothing particularly new about Syrian intervention in one guise or another since 1976. But this particular operation is of direct concern to this country because the fate of the British hostages being held in South Beirut depends very much on its outcome.

It may be that in anticipation of the Syrian move, the hostages have been smuggled away from Beirut into that part of the Bekaa Valley

where Hezbollah continues to hold power. They might equally have been moved to Southern Lebanon.

If they have not been moved, they may soon be seen by their captors as a wasting asset, even an encumbrance, as the Syrians tighten their hold on South Beirut. In that case, it can only be hoped that those holding the hostages choose to set them free, or alternatively, that Syria has already negotiated a deal with the Iranians over their release.

It is now time that what passes for law and order in Beirut is imposed on the southern suburbs and the murderous gangs who live there. One must welcome the Syrian intervention if only because it should help to reduce the power of Hezbollah. The destructive influence of these Islamic extremists spreads beyond Lebanon to threaten all the moderate governments of the Arab world.

The Syrians hardly present a very democratic alternative. The regime in Damascus is repressive and unpleasant and its associations with Middle East terrorism led Britain to break off diplomatic relations two years ago. There is also the possibility that Syrian ambitions do not stop at restoring their position as the major outside influence on Lebanon, but extend to annexing the country once and for all.

In the present circumstances, however, the Syrians represent a preferable alternative to the fanatics of extreme Islam, who threaten both further to destabilize Lebanon and to export their revolution far afield. From the perspective of President Assad in Damascus, it must also present his Government with another opportunity to improve his country's international status and regain some of the confidence of the major Western powers.

Pension surpluses

From Mr G. D. Bernstein
Sir, Mr Sawyer (May 9) suggests that pension scheme trustees may not be acting reasonably when returning surplus to the employing company, allegedly with a view to the interest of the scheme's pensioners and deferred pensioners. He forgets, however, that the pension scheme trust deed was almost certainly drawn up originally by a solicitor employed for that purpose by the company.

The solicitor, quite properly, has taken instructions from the company about what the trust deed should specify about the distribution of any pension scheme surplus. Naturally, those instructions tended to favour the company and may give the trustees very little say in what is done.

The time for arguing about the distribution of surplus is at the time the pension scheme is originally set up or when an individual joins the company. At that time, the employee is in a position of offering his services to the company and can then, individually or collectively, negotiate the terms of both pay and pensions. It is clearly too late for an employee to wait until after he has retired to attempt to renegotiate the pension part of his contract.

It is extremely rare for a trade union to scrutinize a pension scheme trust deed seriously whilst it is still in the draft stage. Certainly, I have never come across a case where the trade union representatives have given

the pension scheme trust deed the same degree of scrutiny as the actuaries and lawyers employed by the company.

At present, the way that most schemes are worded, most pensioners need to look to their employers to provide pension increases on an ex-gratia basis. They have no clearly defined right to those increases nor to any clearly defined part of the fund. As long as this continues, there will be disappointed pension scheme members crying "fool" far too late and complaining that they have not been equitably treated.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. BERNSTEIN
(Consulting Actuary),
Lidbrook House,
162 Regent's Park Road,
Finchley, N3.
May 11.

Rescue archaeology

From the Chairman of Rescue
Sir, The prospect of the imminent destruction without record of a Roman villa and other sites by the Department of Transport during the construction of the M40 extension, as reported (May 18) by Professor Frere, is intolerable. It could not, however, be said to be unpredictable.

Until the issue of the Dorchester bypass was raised in your columns (September 13 and 25, 1986), DoT took the stance that as Government funding for rescue archaeology in England was directed towards English Heritage, it had no obligation to make its own

funds available. This ignored the reality that English Heritage lacked the resources and apparently the will to provide such money.

Professor Frere calls for an adequate response to the archaeological problems caused by DoT road-building in Great Britain. Such a response is unlikely to be found unless the Government accepts the lead given by United States legislation, which requires federal bodies both to assess the destructive implication of their schemes and to provide the funds that are necessary for the archaeological work to be undertaken.

Rescue will be asking the Government to follow the example that has been set by the United States. Such action is urgently required in Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY SHELTON, Chairman,
Rescue (The British Archaeological Trust),
15A Bull Plain,
Hertford.
May 19.

Sex on TV

From Mr Anthony Hopkins
Sir, Before Sir William Rees-Mogg starts abolishing sex from television, would someone please tell me on which channel I can find it? I've been searching for ages without any luck.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOPKINS,
Woodward Cottage,
Ashridge,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
May 24.

Plans for Tory group in Ulster

From Dr Laurence Kennedy

Sir, Addressing the Scottish Conservative conference in Perth (report, May 13) Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, declared that:

devolution will not bring to the public in Scotland any satisfying sense that they are closer to the exercise of political power than they are at the present time

and that the arrangements necessary for devolution will "create a great strain on the Union (of the United Kingdom) and may... ultimately lead to its dissolution".

Echoing this, Mrs Thatcher said that as long as she was leader of the party, the Conservatives, which she described as "a party of the whole United Kingdom", would "reject legislative devolution unequivocally".

In welcoming the Prime Minister's declaration of support for the integrity of the United Kingdom, we would point out that in fact, at present, her Government appears to hold a contradictory policy in trying to impose some form of legislative devolution in Northern Ireland, and that, since her party does not organise in Northern Ireland, it is not a party of the whole United Kingdom.

We have given notice to Central Office of the formation of a Conservative Association for the constituency of North Down, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the party in its model rules (issued by Central Office). This association will be seeking affiliation with the National Union of Conservative Constituency Associations.

If this attempt to bring the people of Northern Ireland into non-sectarian national politics of the state in which we live is rebuffed and not welcomed by Mrs Thatcher, then the people of Northern Ireland may justly conclude that "the Union" excludes that section of the United Kingdom on this side of the Irish Sea.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KENNEDY,
R. L. MCCARTNEY,
J. FINNEY,
BRUCE MCINTYRE,
3 My Lady's Mile,
Holywood, Co. Down.
May 23.

Aiding disabled

From the Vice-Chairman of Motability
Sir, Your correspondent, Malcolm Brown, is to be congratulated on the comprehensive account which he gave of Motability in your Focus feature on May 20. However, there is one extremely important aspect which was not mentioned.

To use the words of our Chairman, Lord Goodman, Motability is "a unique partnership between Government, the private sector and the voluntary sector" and we could not have had the degree of success that we have had without the active support of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Indeed the administrative costs of Motability's office in Harlow, which arranges the hire and hire purchase of cars, are met by a grant from the DHSS which enables the charitable wing to devote its income entirely to assisting disabled people whose mobility allowance is insufficient to pay for the car they need.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREY STERLING,
Vice-Chairman, Motability,
Charity Office,
Castlewood House,
77 New Oxford Street, WC1.
May 24.

From Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South (Labour)
Sir, I was surprised to find no mention of the person who initiated Motability, Alfred Morris, MP, the Minister for the Disabled who envisaged and enacted this unique form of enhanced mobility for disabled people.

Supported by Barbara Castle and Harold Wilson, he founded many schemes who will be as surprised at the 100,000th vehicle as Alfred Morris is delighted.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.
May 23.

Verbal dexterity

From Mr David Shepherd
Sir, A notice on the petrol pump at our local friendly garage records that the meter must be finished "zeroising" before delivery commences.

Yours etc,
DAVID SHEPHERD,
Kingham Hill School,
Kingham, Oxford.
May 24.

From Mr Neville S. Conrad
Sir, On coming into land at a US airport the voice of the American pilot came over the intercom: "please fasten your seat belts, we'll be destinationized in 20 minutes".

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE S. CONRAD,
129 Mount Street,
Berkley Square, W1.
May 24.

From Mrs Gill Hopkins
Sir, In Singapore lights are "onned" and "offed".

Doubts on Star Wars programme

From Lord Zuckerman, OM, FRS
Sir, Your main editorial of May 26 sums up the three articles on SDI (strategic defence initiative) that appeared in your three preceding issues, and concludes that the concept of SDI — that of a space-based anti-ballistic missile shield over the United States — can no longer be dismissed as a fantasy. I fear that you are over-optimistic.

The first of the articles by Mr Evans, your Defence Correspondent, is headed "Star Wars is the most controversial weapon concept since the development of the atom bomb". Leaving aside a certain fallacy in this statement, Mr Evans gives no indication of what the controversy is about, and makes only passing reference to the fact that the US Congressional Office of Technology Assessment has recently submitted to the Congress a highly critical report that incorporates the results of a two-year study of the whole SDI programme.

This enquiry was carried out by a team of highly qualified specialists who have no vested interest, either financial or occupational, in SDI work, but who at the same time had access to all that was going on, and were provided with the opportunity of discussing their findings with many of the key individuals who are engaged in the programme.

Only part of the report has yet been leaked to the press. What has been is highly critical, and the report apparently ends with these

words: "In OTA's judgment there would be a significant probability that the first (and presumably only) time the ballistic missile defense system were used in a real war, it would suffer a catastrophic failure".

No doubt Mr Evans refrained from referring to this report, except to indicate that it existed, because it has not yet been formally published. But it is inexcusable that he makes no reference to any of the other reports and critiques of SDI, some of them official, that are highly dubious of the likelihood that SDI could ever materialise, either in a form that gave substance to President Reagan's dream, or that would have any strategic value.

Nor does it seem that Mr Evans interviewed any of the prominent and knowledgeable American scientists who contributed to the studies. The "dozens of scientists and engineers" who he did see were all working in the SDI programme, and were, as Mr Evans admits, bound to be believers. One of them is quoted as saying that he was paid to be optimistic.

There are too many "ifs and buts" in SDI to justify either the heading of your editorial, "A myth no more", or the thrust of its conclusion.

Yours etc,
ZUCKERMAN,
The Shooting Fox,
Burnham Thorpe,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
May 27.

Peers and poll tax

From Lord Plunket
Sir, In the event, it would have made no difference to the outcome of Lord Chelwood's amendment on the community charge (report, May 24) had infrequent attenders of the House, such as myself, not voted against it.

In your report the day before, you suggested that the vote would be very close. I felt the occasion had importance beyond the actual issue and as is my constitutional right and responsibility I attended and listened to the whole of the debate. If there was pressure on peers to attend, certainly no one from the Whip's office spoke to me. I personally was most impressed by speeches from the cross-benches condemning the amendment and I voted against it.

The highstanding of the House of Lords in the public eye was commented on by Government speakers and Opposition alike. A feeble majority, one way or another, would in this instance have settled nothing, even damaging its reputation.

This debate was not about opting for this scheme or for that one, whether to add this phrase or take out that one. It was about asking the elected Government to abandon its proposal for the long-overdue reform of local government financing in favour of no alternative proposal at all.

I believe that the massive rejection of so nebulous an argument demonstrated the inherent common sense of the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
PLUNKET,
39 Lansdowne Gardens, SW8.
May 24.

From Dr D. Hamilton
Sir, Why should descent from illegitimate sons of Charles II give men the right to stream up to London from their vast estates and vote that the poor peasants shall pay poll tax at the same rate as they do — and carry the day?

Yours sincerely,
D. HAMILTON,
26 Malson Dieu,
Richmond, North Yorkshire.
May 24.

Health at work

From Councillor Miles Young
Sir, Your editorial (May 21) on legionella pneumonia has been a helpful contribution to what I hope will become an intense debate.

From my own experience in Westminster, where we have had to cope with the recent outbreak, I have a great deal of sympathy with your arguments for the principle of deterrent fines and the establishment of a licensing system for water-cooling systems, especially one from which Crown properties have no immunity, and which makes the choice of air-cooled systems more attractive. But before this could be effective there are two prerequisites.

First, there needs to be an updated, completely unequivocal and generally agreed set of rules for the maintenance and treatment of systems.

Then there needs to be an urgent revision of the Health and Safety at Work Act, to the extent that those failing to treat a plant in accordance with the rules would be liable to prosecution.

At present the vagueness of the legislation (for instance the difficulty of proving a coincidental link between the operation of the plant and the outbreak of disease) is such as to make prosecution very difficult. Unless the legislative backup is provided, no licensing system will work. I hope the Government will grasp the opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
MILES YOUNG (Chairman,
Environment Committee),
City of Westminster Council,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.
May 24.

Jewish refuseniks

From Mr Harry Rich
Sir, The letter from Sasha Khassan and other second-generation refuseniks in Moscow (May 24) raises important issues regarding the application of glasnost to Soviet Jews.

We maintain detailed and fully documented records on 49 second-generation refuseniks. Of these, since November, 1987, only five have been granted the exit visas to which they are entitled. These cases are simply a representative tip of an enormous iceberg.

Second-generation refuseniks, in common with their parents' generation, remain subject to the immense frustration of being at the mercy of the whims of a system which allows no proper administrative procedure by which they can attain their rights.

In 1979, during the stagnant and illiberal Brezhnev years, 51,000 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. Under the open and reconstructing Mikhail Gorbachev only 8,155 left last year. Glasnost, it seems, is going West. Soviet Jews are not.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY RICH, Chairman,
Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry,
11 Christchurch Avenue, NW6.

Televising Commons

From the Deputy Director, BBC Television News and Current Affairs
Sir, Your report (May 25) that MPs were angered by the scale of the BBC/ITN plans for televising the House of Commons included an unfair comparison of statistics.

The report states that the broadcasters would each need an additional 100 staff, whereas some independent production companies could produce a "clean feed" with as few as half a dozen.

The two figures are not comparable. The independent production company number is the size of team required to supply the unedited pictures from the House. The BBC/ITN figures for this aspect of the operation are not dissimilar. The larger global figure of 100 includes the correspondents, editors and producers required by each organisation to service our 24-hour news operation, plus the special programmes, national and regional, daily and weekly, which we are planning to ensure comprehensive coverage of the event.

Whichever of the small teams supplies the pictures, in the end both broadcasters will still require a sizeable group to produce the full range of programmes.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD NEIL,
Deputy Director,
News and Current Affairs,
BBC Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.
May 26.

Still life

From Mr H. T. H. Goodwin
Sir, My wife and I were enjoying ourselves yesterday at the Chelsea Flower Show when a gentleman close to us, admiring some daffodil blooms, said to his companion "They are absolutely perfect, just like plastic". Praise indeed, with which his companion agreed!

Yours faithfully,
H. T. H. GOODWIN,
13 The Drive,
Orpington, Kent.
May 25.

Auto-suggestive

From Mr Steven Alker
Sir, I wonder if mounting a takeover bid is cheaper than advertising. The reason for asking is that for the last few nights I have had to drive to an all-night garage to save a craving for chocolate, following *News at Ten* or the like. My colleagues tell me I'm not alone.

Damn clever people, these Swiss!
Yours faithfully,
STEVEN ALKER,
5 Barley Rise,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Hospices' need for extra funds

From Dame Cicely Saunders
Sir, Since the nurses' pay award was announced, it has become clear that there is to be no extra central funding for independent hospices and that these hospices will have to meet their commitment to maintain NHS salary rates from their own resources.

Of the 100 voluntary hospices, the average health authority support is 27 per cent and only in that percentage can they apparently expect any help. Even there they will be in competition with all the other demands on health authorities.

It is estimated that there will be an increase in hospice expenses of approximately 12 per cent per annum because of the pay award. In 1987 the DHSS asked all health authorities to review their provision for terminal care and, in working together with voluntary groups, to agree with them "a contribution to the costs of that service".

No additional resources have been made available since that time, although hospices have continued to develop their services in response to public demand and public support. This support can hardly meet the present burden, let alone these new demands.

Yours sincerely,
CICELY SAUNDERS,
Chairman,
St Christopher's Hospice,
51-59 Lawrie Park Road, SE26.
May 25.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 28 1926

The years of the Great War and after saw a considerable increase in cigarette smoking. At the time of this leading article the majority of the adult population were smokers. Not until the early 1960s, following the reports of the Surgeon General of the USA and the Royal College of Physicians, was there established a definite link between smoking and disease, especially cancer.

Science and Smoking.

Quite a surprising amount of attention at present is being devoted by research workers, both in America and in Germany, to the influence of tobacco on mental and physical fitness. For the purpose of determining the effects on health of the various forms of smoking most elaborate "intelligence tests" are being employed, and, further, efforts have been made recently to discover the relative number of scholarships won by smokers and non-smokers. It cannot be said that any very considerable result has attended this labour, though the statement has been made that, on the whole, non-smokers pass the intelligence tests with greater credit than their less abstemious companions. Nor have the researchers in the physical field which have been carried out side by side with those in the mental field led to more decisive findings. There is a widespread idea that smoking in any form is detrimental to the athlete in training. Cases, however, have come to light during the research work in America which show that this opinion is not always correct. In some instances, at any rate, tobacco exercises little, if any, effect on those preparing for extreme forms of muscular effort. Thus DR. ROSSLYN EARP, who carried out a series of studies of the differences between smokers and non-smokers at Antioch College, Ohio, found that of 177 smokers, 21 had obtained college "letters" or colours, while of 178 non-smokers the same number had been similarly successful. Among the non-smokers fifty-six got "letters" at school; whereas seventy-four of the smokers were favoured in this respect. As the *Lancet* observes, in commenting on this research, "by this criterion, the non-smokers show no athletic superiority."

The case against smoking, in short, is a poor one so far as it is based on medical considerations. This was pointed out by various writers in our *Tobacco Supplement* last autumn; it was referred to more recently by SIR HUMPHRY ROLLESTON, who, in the course of a lecture on "The Medical Aspects of Tobacco," called attention to the comparative rarity of undoubted lesions due to smoking and, further, offered the suggestion that the injurious effects of excessive smoking "are materially augmented, if not in part due to, simultaneous alcoholism." SIR HUMPHRY declared that, though tobacco had dropped out of the British Pharmacopoeia, it certainly had its uses, especially as a sedative. It might act "as a charm for the fidgets". On this ground, smoking would seem to deserve inclusion among the agencies of civilization. In any case, it is certain that the calamities which from time to time have been foretold as a consequence of addiction to pipes, cigars, or cigarettes have not often occurred. Nor have the warnings uttered by physicians in the past against smoking by women found any evident fulfilment...

May 27-June 2, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Grasping nettles in the Garden

Under new
management, the
Royal Opera
House is about
to answer its
choir of critics
with change.
Brian James
measures the size
of the task

The Royal Opera House is described as the flagship of British arts. From his lookout post high in the rigging of culture, Melvyn Bragg pretends to see the great yellow edifice in Covent Garden as "an oil tanker, one of those mammoths which, even when you push the tiller hard over, takes three years to change course 10 degrees".

That the tiller will be violently handled next Tuesday, when the incoming general director, Jeremy Isaacs, outlines a five-year programme for the Royal Opera, is not in doubt. At two meetings this weekend he will assemble about him his new crew of theatrical creators and administrators to final-polish the briefing.

Anything short of the compass swinging towards an entirely new horizon for the company will provoke mutiny among the critics who assemble on Tuesday. No other art form has had to endure the five years of corrosive criticism that has befallen Covent Garden: even those enterprising signwriters who turn columns of scorn to placards of praise ("Simply awful, of breathing-taking banality" becoming "Simply... breathtaking") would have been hard put to apply cosmetic gloss to its image.

The Royal Opera is seen, in Bragg's words, as a "tired parade of faded favourites, clanking through year in year out"; what Jonathan Miller dismisses as "a series of concerns-to-frocks"; what the opera writer Peter Conrad feels to be "a museum of sad, faded ghosts".

And these are men who love opera. Criticism elsewhere turns on the fact that Covent Garden's opera and ballet costs up more than £13 million in subsidy, 10 per cent of the nation's Arts Council funding; that despite prices of up to £70 for a top seat at a premium performance, an opera-going couple are still subsidised by roughly the weekly income of two OAPs; that its declared policy of using the greatest international singers produces operas sung by disinterested, under-rehearsed, £10,000-a-time stars (when they deign to turn up) and losses of nearly £3 million a year.

Covent Garden has been involved in damaging disputes: with



those other extravagantly-paid "stars", the jocular stagehands who lug cardboard castles into place for roughly the medieval cost of building the originals; and with their own corps of singing spear-carriers, who claimed they were treated little more kindly than the Hebrew slaves. Add the ridicule following the introduction of surtitles — a black screen above the stage so that the more dense in the audiences could follow the plot of *The Ring* as though it were some late-night movie — and where is the cheer?

Not all hold so gloomy a view. The much-promoted idea of a Covent Garden ensemble of its own singers is spurned by my colleague, the opera critic and historian John Higgins: "The policy of trying always for the stars was absolutely correct, the only way for a great national company to believe. An ensemble of second-division singers is appropriate only to a provincial company."

The outgoing general director, Sir John Tooley, who joined from a post in Ford's line management 17 years ago, leaves in September. He is a thoroughly decent man who has wrestled with appalling difficulties. He leaves a house most of us feel to be lacking a degree of flair. What is also lacking, often, at ROH is any reason to smile. Tickets are obtained from staff whose truculent indifference suggests they have been walled up for life in those

cubicles as punishment for some unspeakable sin; the blatant posing in posh dress on stairs and gangways is a costume drama all of its own, and the loadsmoney blare from the Crush Bar produces the fervent wish that, like something out of Edgar Allan Poe, walls, ceiling and floor would at once converge to give new meaning to the name.

A If these are reasons why this is a flagship, according to many, holed and sinking.

The appointment of Lord Sainsbury as a chairman, a necessarily tough money-gutter to drag in sponsorship to cover the huge state underfunding; the coming of Isaacs, and the recruitment of Jeffrey Tate as his principal conductor, of Bernard Haitink as music director, of Paul Findlay as opera director, of Patrick Carrigy as *Dramaturg* (a kind of dramatic guardian, and a wholly new post at ROH), and of Helga Schmidt as talent scout, suggest the salvage crew are now aboard.

To start with, what to jettison? Bragg, himself much touted for the Isaacs post although he insists he neither applied nor would have accepted, declares that the Covent Garden ballet corps should be asked to leave. Dr Jonathan Miller, artistic director of the Old Vic, whose theatrical CV includes the creation of the summing English National Opera version of *Rigoletto*, wants to get rid of the ROH audience.

"Two companies in one building," says Bragg, "each creating great audience expectation, each dependent upon grant funding, is actually unmanageable. It creates the worst of both worlds. To achieve for the opera company the right balance, with some feeling of 'rep', some feeling of risk, you need a house that is your own 365 days a year. I know the dance people feel that they are just tucked on. Yes, a separate Covent Garden Ballet. Find the space, make the theatre. It is possible and necessary. It is no magic wand, but I think it an essential first step."

As a first step it would stretch a deal further than the cost-saving effort of one of the ROH old guard, who once remarked testily: "People will leave taps running, and fail to put out the lights." This, at a time when ROH productions costing £200,000 were being put on for two or three performances, then rotated with another part of the repertoire when the star flew out. This, surely, is a policy aptly described as akin to trying to stage *Cats*, *Phantom* and *42nd Street* in one theatre in the same week.

"I go to Covent Garden with great enjoyment," Bragg says, "but often sit listening to the clanking and grinding behind the curtain, wondering if they are going to get the scenery in place on time."

Is it not another argument for the ensemble system, mounting a production and keeping it for a sustained run (with an alternating cast), instead of depending on Domingo being able to dash in and tear off a brisk *Otello*? "Exactly. With him finding time for one rehearsal if you are lucky. Then just walking through the part... no wonder there is so often no sense of drama."

"I understand the policy of being reliant on stars. But with the best will in the world — and Sir John has had the best will in the world — it just doesn't work. You find yourself competing with places like the New York Met for a sort of grandiose glitz. And ROH doesn't have the resources to compete successfully. You get caught up in the boredom of the stars, the tyranny of their agents."

New men at the helm: Isaacs, with Haitink on his right hand and Findlay on his left, has taken over from Tooley (below). They sail on Tuesday

Jonathan Miller declares: "Jeremy Isaacs may well have some good ideas from television, but I am not sure what he can achieve without some very radical brew. The first thing they must do is get rid of that audience... stalls full of dozing executives, uncomprehending Japanese spending their expense accounts. You cannot put on opera for a gathering like that."

"Yes, in a subtle sort of way they choose the performance. Not the repertoire, but the manner of its doing. Those ROH audiences would not tolerate anything genuinely modern — which is not just dressing up Vikings in modern clothes. It means taking into account what is being done in the ordinary theatre: stringent designs and imaginative presentation."

"The Royal Opera needs to be theatrically strong, putting on operas that capture the total imagination, not just evenings of imported stars on Sunday. Everything they have done for years has been so conspicuously undramatic, lacking the necessary rehearsal time to attempt anything other than the safe and banal."

"At the Coliseum, Cardiff or Opera North, opera has pulled

itself up to be modern musical theatre. The Royal have made a few token gestures — one, a truly awful *Fidelio*. But they have been pathetic, like watching some aging dowager lifting her skirts and twirling to show her knickers. Everything at the Royal is so, well, conspicuously unvisual."

At this, we agreed, we could sense the entrance of the Chorus of Raucous Philistines bellowing "Oh, But Opera Is Meant For Ears!" "It's not. It is meant to be total theatre, or else it is just concerts in frocks."

Another who paces frequently through Covent Garden's piazza crowds and pavement entertainers, wondering whether he is going to have as much fun once inside, is Peter Conrad, who teaches English at Christ Church, Oxford, when he is not writing about opera for *Tatler*. He agrees with much of this: "Since the late Fifties the Royal has had a stock of Italian operas, then marvelously staged by Zeffirelli and Visconti. They were superb. But now we have seen them being dragged out unchanged for 20 or 30 years, season after season; they have become ossified, museum pieces... sad, faded ghosts. It is all Memory Lane."

Conrad says: "I suspect out comes the production book and someone says 'right, that's where Callas was made to stand... that's how Sutherland came down the stairs, so let's do the same'. I remember a marvellous *Electra* in 1952 — but they are still staging it with the same decomposing set. This is thought to be the economical way. What they need are new, sparser productions, with a 'life' of 18 months or two years, to approximate the sort of policy they have at the National Theatre or the RSC."

Conrad is more optimistic that the energy now bubbling behind the colonnaded entrance will soon reach out to the critical mass: "I think Haitink is a great musician and Isaacs an impresario of genius, now with a gleam in his eye. I think changes will be rapid, and part of an era of great drama."

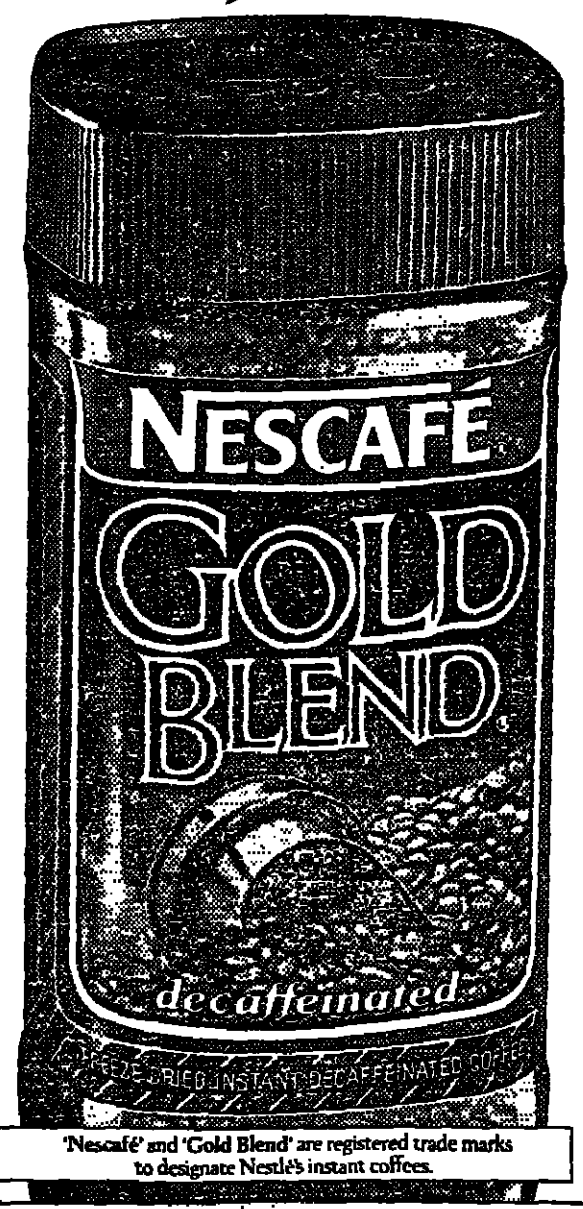
Stampeding Valkyries would not drag from Garden staff the artistic plans for the Royal Opera that Isaacs, Haitink and Findlay will unveil on Tuesday, but clues abound. The trio sat and gossiped recently with *Opera* magazine. Isaacs, who said he was "still at the innocent stage of enjoying opera... still being communicated to by the greatness in the work", admitted: "One of the things that the house had suffered from in the last several years is, not to mince words, second-rate revivals. The first and most important of the strands [in our plans] is to repair the Italian



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crossword,
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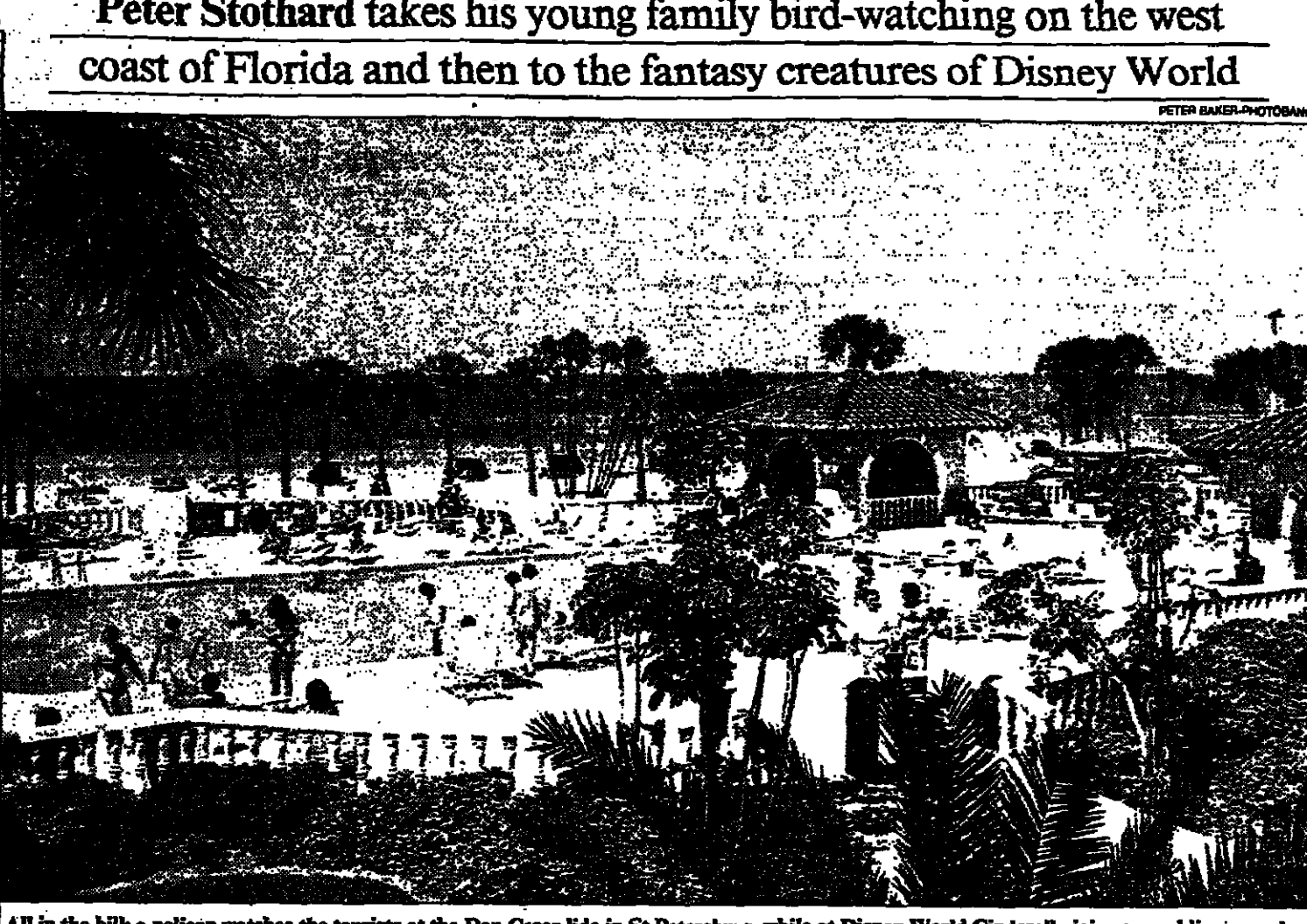
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

From exotica to fantastica

Peter Stothard takes his young family bird-watching on the west coast of Florida and then to the fantasy creatures of Disney World



All in the bill: a pelican watches the tourists at the Don Cesar lido in St Petersburg, while at Disney World Cinderella joins a sparkling parade

The pelican is the prince of St Petersburg beach. He does not dive down from afar to snatch guilts at his fish-like some common gull, he strikes from as little as a yard or two above the waves, upon which he then sits eating his catch in peace.

He gathers around the boardwalk cafés where other fishermen and recent fellow air travellers take refreshment. He appreciates the attention of tourists, particularly those with a sense of humour, and it is already clear from a short drive along Gulf Boulevard that he has given his name to local restaurants with the same indiscriminatory that British royalty has applied to public houses.

We had arrived in Florida the previous night, from a wet Britain to a Tampa airport so blasted by rain it seemed it might dissolve. A little booklet welcomed us to Thunder Capital USA — not a name I recalled from the holiday brochures. Even though it was the middle of the American night, my daughter (aged four years) wanted to

swim. That was why she had come. My son (aged four months) wanted to play games. He did not know it was night time.

The lightning in the concrete corridors of the Tradewinds Hotel turned our search for the swimming pool into one of those B-picture scenes before something very nasty happens. It was not the welcome we had expected. But seen from the wooden breakfast restaurant at Treasure Island next morning, it did not seem so bad. It seemed rather appropriate, in fact.

Florida may be famous for the man-made fantastica of Walt Disney and Cape Canaveral, for its pampered rich retirees, their condominiums and their crime capital of Miami; but on its chain of western islands in the Gulf of Mexico, the southernmost state of the union seems something very different. As the guidebook confirms, Florida at its highest inland point is only 300 feet above the sea. Here there seems to be the merest sliver of habitable solid land between the air and the waters. Mostly

Among the hotels on St Petersburg beach we visit two which are in the strongest Floridian contrast, the one watery and natural the other a builder's fantasy. The latter is the grander. It is the great pink stuccoed mound of the Don Cesar, whose strange "theme" is taken (uniquely, I am tempted to say) from a hit of the Victorian stage.

Cesar was the hero of *Mariana*, a comic opera of firing squads and false marriages set in 17th century Spain. It was written by the Andrew Lloyd Webber of the 1840s, William Vincent Wallace, a minor imitator of Meyerbeer and Mozart who was also known as the "Austrian Paganini", even though he was Irish.

What Wallace lacked in originality, he made up in exoticism, romance, and cosmopolitan taste — virtues shared in a now somewhat diluted form by the hotel named after his most profitable character. If you want to attempt a sense of Florida in the Twenties, of Al Capone on the beach or Scott Fitzgerald, in the bedroom, this is the place to come. Even

if you do not, it is worth a drink in the Don's bar.

The Tradewinds is the very opposite. It is barely three years old. It is a low collection of rooms arranged around fish-filled lakes and islands of palm trees and picnic barbecues. From our room we can see three swimming pools (for the delight of daughter), a rabbit run (for amusement of son), a lake with geese, swans and tufted duck, the beach, and a sky full of pelican.

Our rooms are like a good-sized apartment. The initial appearance may have been unimpressive but we could happily live here for months. It has become a truism that for tolerant restaurateurs, helpful hoteliers, and generally being child-friendly, Florida is a wonderful place for a family holiday; but it bears repeating.

At the Tradewinds, nature sometimes come a little too near. There is a snowy egret (a most elegant bird with white plumes, black legs and distinctive golden feet) which has its favourite table at the floating restaurant. Now, it is one thing to admire this creature in profile; something else to see it from the vantage point of its prey, when it is nothing but beak, eyes, and a determination to share your fishcake.

After attempting to stare him out on our first visit, we eventually have to give

up. We move to another table across the doorway and spend the rest of the lunchtime (and other lunchtimes) watching for even the most bronzed sophisticates of the outdoor life to do likewise.

If one's admiration for real birds becomes strained to the final limit, there are always the false ones. Walt Disney World is a mere half-a-morning's hire car away. It is not easy to add usefully to the writing on Disney. Everyone has a certain idea of what it is like — the parades of men and women dressed as Mickey, Donald, et al, the queues of people to ride around Snow White's castle and climb Space Mountain.

That is all correct — though returning travellers' descriptions of the queues tend to touch on the obsessive. The whole vast enterprise, from helter-skelter ride through Wild West hot springs to excursions on the history of communication, is a glorious artifice. It makes the efforts of the man who made the Don Cesar seem puny.

No first class hotel has so brilliantly solved the problem of keeping staff and servants out of sight. We visitors are like the actors on a stage. The real action that makes Disney World go round takes place on levels far below us, levels which the paying guest need never know exists.

We tour jungles of ostrich and hippo. We fight Caribbean pirates, each with his wooden-legged parrot. Our ships explode. Our submarine narrowly escapes an octopus. For my daughter it is all absolutely real. Because we are not afraid of octopus or ostrich, she is not afraid; but she none the less sees them as real birds and beasts. Walt Disney was a genius. There is no escaping that.

The artificial does temporarily squeeze out any appreciation of the real at all. One of the newer additions to Disney World is known as Discovery Island, a sanctuary for giant tortoises, alligators, rare deer, exquisite mynahs and parakeets, Trumpeter swans — all in all one of the most compact and carefully presented wildlife parks I have ever seen. But I wonder if the great Walt would have approved of it. After the Jungle Ride in the Magic Kingdom, the trip was a child-failure: there is no bird, he decided, like a metal bird, a plastic bird, a 3-D hologrammatic bird, or a cuddly stuffed bird to take home to England.

To this we could only agree. When we were back at Tampa airport (this time in more clement weather) we wished we had bought nothing but the stuffed bird. The security ladies objected strongly to one of the shapes in our hand luggage. It was a musket for shooting those Caribbean pirates, and it was very convincing.

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TRAVEL NOTES

Sovereign Holidays (0283-561 444). A one bedroom suite for one week at Tradewinds, St Petersburg, inclusive of flights for two adults and the two children, costs from £1,670. This would be in November. Meals are extra. Car hire (Escort or Nova) costs from £30 per week. One night's accommodation only at Polynesian Village costs from \$125 (\$265) to \$150 (\$270) inclusive of transport within the Walt Disney property. A three-day passport to all the attractions in Disney World costs \$77 (£40.50) for an adult, \$52 (£23.50) for a child. Children aged two and under go free. Walt Disney reservations (0101-407-824 8000).

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THE TIMES COOK

DIANA LEADBETTER



Pick of the brunch

Because this is a relatively new bank holiday, no longer attached to a religious festival, there are no traditions to be followed, no symbolic presentations to be made, no expectations that we should be with family. It is a perfect time, then, to think about inviting friends in for a meal.

With careful planning (and plenty of stamina), you could fit in a dinner on Saturday, a lunch on Sunday and something on Monday. I suggest for Monday one of those lovely casual meals that can go on most of the day, an all-day breakfast, a brunch, call it what you like. Breakfast-type dishes such as kedgeree can be followed by corned beef hash, bacon and egg pie and omelettes. Offer plenty of fresh fruit — oranges, melons and a bowl of strawberries, perhaps. Or consider a compôte of dried fruit, rich and delicious, or my suggestion of prunes with a fresh mint syrup. These will all be more suitable than a cake, sweet pie or rich pudding, since the savoury dishes are substantial.

Before the hot dishes, platters of smoked fish and meat would be a good idea. So, too, would croissants or pitta bread filled with cream cheese and smoked salmon. For this, buy smoked salmon trimmings or pieces, which are cheaper than slices. If you are a baker, a giant croissant on a plate, split and filled with smoked salmon or a scrambled egg and herb mixture, is a very effective centerpiece. Alternatively you might persuade a local baker to make you one large one rather than a dozen regular ones.

Food like this will take an enormous range of drink. Think about serving iced coffees or teas if the weather is suitable, fresh fruit juices, cider cups and the sparkling drinks that cannot fail to turn this into a party — bucks fizz, hock and seltzer, and Pimm's. I have included a recipe for a delicious, refreshing and almost non-alcoholic sparkler.

Incidentally, the kedgeree and corned beef hash recipes make marvellous supper dishes, and the bacon, egg and sausage pie is sturdy enough to be taken on a picnic.

Entertain friends on Monday with an all-day breakfast — maximum fun with minimum fuss, says Frances Bissell

Kedgeree
(Serves 6)
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil (or clarified butter)
1 medium onion, peeled and thinly sliced
crushed seeds from 6 cardamom pods or ¼ teaspoon ground cardamom
3 cloves
½lb/340g basmati rice
1½pt/850ml water or fish stock
3 or 4 eggs
½lb/340g fish

Heat the oil or butter in a heavy saucepan or casserole and fry the onion until wilted and lightly brown. Add the cardamom, cloves and rice, and stir until the rice is coated and shiny with oil. Add the water or stock, bring to the boil, turn the heat right down, cover the rice with a very tightly fitting lid or, in its absence, two thicknesses of foil, and let the rice cook for approximately 20 minutes, by which time it will have absorbed all the water. If using cooked fish, remove the bones, and lay it on top of the rice, cover again and let it heat through in the steam. If using raw fish, slice it very thinly, and stir into the rice to cook through for about five minutes.

Meanwhile, boil the eggs for 4½ to 5 minutes. Run cold water over them until cool enough to handle. Shell and roughly chop the eggs into the rice and fish mixture. At this stage, add whatever you plan to add to dress it up such as chives, curry powder, melted butter or cream, and serve immediately.

Bacon, Egg and Sausage Pie
(Serves 4 to 6)
½lb/230g sausages
½lb/230g bacon
½lb/340g shortcrust pastry
4 or 6 size 3 eggs
freshly ground black pepper
beaten egg and milk to glaze
Cut the sausages into pieces (about 1in/2.5cm), and fry

lightly browned. With a fork, mix the corned beef and potatoes together and add the mustard, soy sauce and stock or wine. Stir well until thoroughly mixed.

Heat the frying pan and spoon in all the hash, pressing it well down. When cooked brown and crisp on the bottom, invert a plate over the frying pan, flick the pan over so that the hash cake is on the plate, cooked side up. If necessary, add a little more oil or butter to the pan, and slide in the hash to cook the other side. When cooked, cut into wedges and serve. Some people like eggs with this, poached, fried or soft-boiled. If they have had the kedgeree and bacon and egg pie already, they have had enough eggs.

Prunes in Mint Syrup
(Serves 6 to 8)
1 good size bunch fresh mint (about 2oz/60g)
2 tablespoons icing or caster sugar
1lb/455g prunes
boiling water or weak tea

Crush the fresh mint and sugar in a heat-proof bowl. Place the prunes on top, and cover with boiling water or weak tea. Allow to steep, refrigerated, for at least 24 hours. Remove the by now discoloured mint leaves, and replace with fresh ones for decoration before serving.

Triple Orange
(Makes 2pt/1.15)
1 small tin frozen condensed orange juice
1 tablespoon orange marmalade
1 miniature orange flavoured liqueur
1 teaspoon Angostura Bitters
1½pt/1 bottle sparkling spring or mineral water

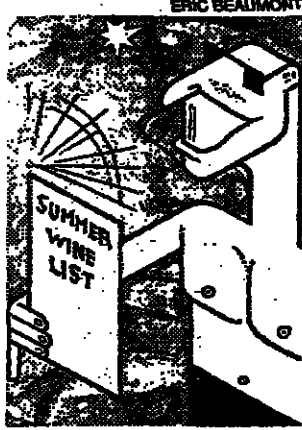
Put the first four ingredients in a blender goblet and blend until smooth. Pour into a large chilled jug and top up with sparkling water. Frosted fresh mint leaves are suitable for decoration. An alternative version of this drink, for which you will have to think of another name, can be made from concentrated grapefruit juice, lime or lemon marmalade and a couple of measures of gin or vodka.

Corned Beef Hash
(Serves 6 to 8)
1½lb/680g old potatoes
1 medium onion, peeled and thinly sliced
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (or clarified butter)
1lb/455g corned beef
1 scant tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon soy sauce
2 tablespoons stock or red wine
salt
pepper

Peel and cut the potatoes into chunks. Boil until almost tender, drain, dice small and place in a bowl. Fry the onion in the olive oil or butter in a heavy frying pan until soft and

DRINK

First of the summer wine lists



offers. Given the wondrous wines within, plus the generous discounts on offer, *La Vignerone Wine Journal* is a bargain, even at £10, from *La Vignerone*, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7.

The Adams 1988 pillarbox red list, with its stylish design, elegant photographs and equally elegant text from Simon Loftus (its wine buyer and director), continues to be Britain's most glamorous wine list, although I was slightly disappointed with 1988's presentation. But the Adams choice of wines is as appetizing and sensibly priced as ever. (Contact Adams at The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk.)

Grand old St James's Street wine merchants Berry Bros & Rudd (3 St James's Street, London SW1) also has something new to offer in 1988: a larger format list up from waistcoat-pocket size (Berry's quaintly explains that "fewer waistcoats are worn these days") to jacket-pocket size. Apart from the increase in size, Berry's new list is much enhanced by some well-executed wine maps plus useful notes on wines and regions.

Berry's hates being described as old-fashioned and notes testily in its latest *Number 3* magazine, "Because our shop has not changed in appearance since the 18th century, this does not mean that we are mentally living in

the past". Given its carefully compiled list with its numerous new pages offering a wider range of Australian, New Zealand and Californian wines plus sampling cases (try the 24 half-bottle case of house wines priced at £39), even Berry's sternest critics would agree that this 17th-century firm now caters for 20th-century tastes.

Yapp '88 is the title of Robin and Judith Yapp's latest wine list, keenly awaited by lovers of Rhône and Loire wines. As always, Yapp Brothers' spring and summer wine offers boast considerable savings on normal prices, so secure your share now of Yapp's best by sending off for selections such as the Sauvignon Set — a case of six different zingy Sauvignon wines, including Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé, priced at £58, which saves £7.40 on normal prices. Contact Yapp Brothers at the Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire.

Finally, congratulations to Richard Wheeler and John Thorogood of Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, whose masterly spring 1988 edition offers an authoritative and comprehensive collection of the world's wines.

Jane MacQuitty

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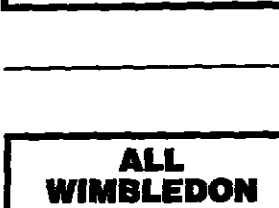
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BRIDGE

The upper house

The 14th match between the House of Lords and the House of Commons was played at the elegant Hotel Meridien in London. The topic which generated the greatest antebellum interest was Dr John Mark and Dr Lewis Moonie's adoption and embellishment of the Precision Club.

I asked the Duke of Athol, Captain of the Lords' team, for his reaction to this new weapon. "I believe it is very popular in Holland," he replied guardedly. Irresistibly I formed a picture of Bertie Wooster seeking Jeeves's opinion.

"I believe it has become quite popular with some of the younger players, Sir." "But not the sort of thing you would recommend, Jeeves?" "It depends on the milieu, Sir."

"All right in some of those places where Bing Little plays, but not of the question at Blandings Castle?" "Precisely, Sir."

"Thank you, Jeeves." Sharp at 10.30am, Black Rod summoned the Commons to do battle. With a regrettable lack of respect the Lower House won the first two rubbers to assume a healthy lead. The Lords were decidedly unlucky on this, the last hand of the first rubber.

Lords v Commons Rubber Duplicate Dealer South

On the previous hand the Duke of Athol (North) and the Duke of Marlborough (South) had fallen short of the mark when their bidding subsided in two spots. This was their unexcused sequence with a 60 part score.

An excellent slam which falls only when East, as here, holds all three missing diamonds. The Commons, who had bid the game on the previous hand, settled for five diamonds to win the rubber.

In the third rubber the Lords wiped out the deficit and took a small lead. And so to an excellent lunch, and well deserved tributes to Ridi Markus for her impeccable organization.

When the last hand was placed on table two, the Lords (although of course they didn't know it) had to bid and make a game to win the match.

Sainsbury found the good lead of the 47. The Duke, probably all too aware that defeat would cost the match, must have viewed his prospects with some dismay. He took the spade in dummy and played the 7J, covered by the 7K and 7A. He cashed the 7Q and ruffed the 72 in dummy. When he drew the trumps, Holt discarded first the 77 and then the 93. Before committing himself to a decision on which way to finesse the diamond, declarer sagely played the Ace and another club. Having noted his partner's signal, Sainsbury won the second club with the 4K. When Holt's 4J fell the heavens wept, because regardless of what Sainsbury played Holt would be squeezed in the minors.

When the smoke cleared, the Lords had won by 730 points, to bring the score in the series to The House of Lords, 8: The House of Commons, 6.

Lords: Duke of Athol (Captain), Duke of Marlborough, Lord Lever, Lord Smith, Lord Rennell.
 Commons: Rt Hon. Kenneth Baker (Captain), Sir Peter Emery, Michael Mates, Dr John Mark, Dr Lewis Moonie, Tim Sainsbury, Alistair Goodlad, Richard Holt

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Mind of a master

The second game in the European Options Exchange Tournament between Karpov and Karpov turned out to be an amazingly violent clash where both players ran enormous risks in search of victory.

It was a superb testimony to the immense fighting spirit of both players and The Times is fortunate this week in being able to present notes to it based on Anatoly Karpov's own views. Karpov's comments were conveyed to me by Professor Nathan Divinsky, the former Canadian Olympic player, who was fortunately on the spot in Amsterdam when this historic game was played.

White: Gary Kasparov - Black: Anatoly Karpov, European Options Exchange Tournament.

Amsterdam May 1988, Caro Kann Defence:

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 Nf3 Qc7 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bg5 Qb6 6 Bxb6 Nxb6 7 Bc4 Bb7 8 Qd2 Qc7 9 Qd1 Qc7 10 Qd2 Qc7 11 Qd1 Qc7 12 Qd2 Qc7 13 Qd1 Qc7 14 Qd2 Qc7 15 Qd1 Qc7 16 Qd2 Qc7 17 Qd1 Qc7 18 Qd2 Qc7 19 Qd1 Qc7 20 Qd2 Qc7 21 Qd1 Qc7 22 Qd2 Qc7 23 Qd1 Qc7 24 Qd2 Qc7 25 Qd1 Qc7 26 Qd2 Qc7 27 Qd1 Qc7 28 Qd2 Qc7 29 Qd1 Qc7 30 Qd2 Qc7 31 Qd1 Qc7 32 Qd2 Qc7 33 Qd1 Qc7 34 Qd2 Qc7 35 Qd1 Qc7 36 Qd2 Qc7 37 Qd1 Qc7 38 Qd2 Qc7 39 Qd1 Qc7 40 Qd2 Qc7 41 Qd1 Qc7 42 Qd2 Qc7 43 Qd1 Qc7 44 Qd2 Qc7 45 Qd1 Qc7 46 Qd2 Qc7 47 Qd1 Qc7 48 Qd2 Qc7 49 Qd1 Qc7 50 Qd2 Qc7 51 Qd1 Qc7 52 Qd2 Qc7 53 Qd1 Qc7 54 Qd2 Qc7 55 Qd1 Qc7 56 Qd2 Qc7 57 Qd1 Qc7 58 Qd2 Qc7 59 Qd1 Qc7 60 Qd2 Qc7 61 Qd1 Qc7 62 Qd2 Qc7 63 Qd1 Qc7 64 Qd2 Qc7 65 Qd1 Qc7 66 Qd2 Qc7 67 Qd1 Qc7 68 Qd2 Qc7 69 Qd1 Qc7 70 Qd2 Qc7 71 Qd1 Qc7 72 Qd2 Qc7 73 Qd1 Qc7 74 Qd2 Qc7 75 Qd1 Qc7 76 Qd2 Qc7 77 Qd1 Qc7 78 Qd2 Qc7 79 Qd1 Qc7 80 Qd2 Qc7 81 Qd1 Qc7 82 Qd2 Qc7 83 Qd1 Qc7 84 Qd2 Qc7 85 Qd1 Qc7 86 Qd2 Qc7 87 Qd1 Qc7 88 Qd2 Qc7 89 Qd1 Qc7 90 Qd2 Qc7 91 Qd1 Qc7 92 Qd2 Qc7 93 Qd1 Qc7 94 Qd2 Qc7 95 Qd1 Qc7 96 Qd2 Qc7 97 Qd1 Qc7 98 Qd2 Qc7 99 Qd1 Qc7 100 Qd2 Qc7 101 Qd1 Qc7 102 Qd2 Qc7 103 Qd1 Qc7 104 Qd2 Qc7 105 Qd1 Qc7 106 Qd2 Qc7 107 Qd1 Qc7 108 Qd2 Qc7 109 Qd1 Qc7 110 Qd2 Qc7 111 Qd1 Qc7 112 Qd2 Qc7 113 Qd1 Qc7 114 Qd2 Qc7 115 Qd1 Qc7 116 Qd2 Qc7 117 Qd1 Qc7 118 Qd2 Qc7 119 Qd1 Qc7 120 Qd2 Qc7 121 Qd1 Qc7 122 Qd2 Qc7 123 Qd1 Qc7 124 Qd2 Qc7 125 Qd1 Qc7 126 Qd2 Qc7 127 Qd1 Qc7 128 Qd2 Qc7 129 Qd1 Qc7 130 Qd2 Qc7 131 Qd1 Qc7 132 Qd2 Qc7 133 Qd1 Qc7 134 Qd2 Qc7 135 Qd1 Qc7 136 Qd2 Qc7 137 Qd1 Qc7 138 Qd2 Qc7 139 Qd1 Qc7 140 Qd2 Qc7 141 Qd1 Qc7 142 Qd2 Qc7 143 Qd1 Qc7 144 Qd2 Qc7 145 Qd1 Qc7 146 Qd2 Qc7 147 Qd1 Qc7 148 Qd2 Qc7 149 Qd1 Qc7 150 Qd2 Qc7 151 Qd1 Qc7 152 Qd2 Qc7 153 Qd1 Qc7 154 Qd2 Qc7 155 Qd1 Qc7 156 Qd2 Qc7 157 Qd1 Qc7 158 Qd2 Qc7 159 Qd1 Qc7 160 Qd2 Qc7 161 Qd1 Qc7 162 Qd2 Qc7 163 Qd1 Qc7 164 Qd2 Qc7 165 Qd1 Qc7 166 Qd2 Qc7 167 Qd1 Qc7 168 Qd2 Qc7 169 Qd1 Qc7 170 Qd2 Qc7 171 Qd1 Qc7 172 Qd2 Qc7 173 Qd1 Qc7 174 Qd2 Qc7 175 Qd1 Qc7 176 Qd2 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OUT AND ABOUT

One man's vision



BARRY GREENWOOD

Founding father: a bust of John Ruskin and some of the displays he donated to the gallery, a converted Victorian wine-shop

In all museums intended for popular teaching, there are two great evils to be avoided, wrote John Ruskin. "The first is, superabundance; the second, disorder."

The Ruskin Gallery in Sheffield triumphantly avoids its Victorian founder's "two great evils". It is a Japanese garden in a museum, displaying daringly few objects and inviting an intense contemplation, rather than the hurried glance which most museums dictate.

You can spend an hour here — and nobody's true attention span is much longer — and you will have seen everything. But, for once, you will have really seen it and you will leave

Nigel Andrew visits the John Ruskin museum in Sheffield which houses the great art critic's fascinating collection

exhilarated and inspired, not footsore and burnt-out.

The Ruskin Gallery of today is a rather distant descendant of the St George's Museum which Ruskin's high-minded Guild of St George founded in 1875. The idea was to awaken the artisans of ugly industrial Sheffield to a visual awareness of "what is lovely in the life of Nature, and heroic in the life of Man". Stocked with paintings, books,

manuscripts, plastercasts and minerals, all donated by Ruskin, the museum was initially housed in a plain stone cottage at Walkley, overlooking the River Valley, just outside the city.

When the overcrowding problem at Walkley became altogether desperate, the collection was transferred into the care of Sheffield city council who housed it in Meersbrook Hall, set in parkland overlooking the city. Here it could spread itself, and initially the Ruskin Museum (as it was now known) attracted some 60,000 visitors a year. That was in 1890. By 1950, interest in Ruskin was at such a low ebb that, following disagreements between the council and the guild, the museum closed.

The collection went into store, and it must have seemed highly unlikely that there would ever again be a Ruskin museum in Sheffield. However, with the dramatic revival of interest in the man and his works (from the 1960s onwards) came a new sense of the collection's possibilities. In 1981 it was agreed that Sheffield should house it and finally, in 1985, the present Ruskin Gallery, elegantly converted from a Victorian wine-shop in the centre of the city, was opened.

It is, as Ruskin intended, a most illuminating museum. On show are fine paintings and drawings, chiefly by Ruskin and his associates, a few extremely beautiful illuminated manuscripts, old prints, plastercasts of architectural carvings from Venice and Rouen, and mineral specimens which, exquisitely displayed and lit, are a revelation in themselves.

There are individual items of great beauty — Ruskin's watercolour of a peacock's breast feather, a breath-taking collection of rocks labelled "A Variety of Opals" — but it is the grouping that brings the collection alive: for example, a set of prints of tropical birds are hung above mineral specimens that suggestively echo their colours and patterning.

Each group of exhibits is tied into the Ruskinian scheme of things by a telling quotation, inscribed in watercolour as one of the gallery's craft commissions. The total effect is enriching, drawing the visitor into sympathy with Ruskin's intense and all-embracing vision. It is a genuine education for the eye, and a model of "popular teaching" in the best sense.

It is also well worth watching the audiovisual presentation about Ruskin and Sheffield — several cuts above the standard, as are the postcards and other merchandise. The Ruskin Gallery: 101 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, is open Mon-Fri 10am-7.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Closed Sun. Admission free.

OUTINGS

TATTON COUNTRY CRAFTS FESTIVAL Many demonstrations and items for sale; also the Hare Breeds Survival Trust. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, (0565 54822). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10am to 6pm. Adult £2, child £1.

FESTIVAL OF ENGLISH WINES Tastings of more than 60 wines. Leeds Castle Grounds, Maidstone, Kent (0622 65400). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 11am to 5.30pm. Last admission 5pm. Adult £3.20, child £2.

WESTON PARK SPRING SPECTACULAR Numerous arena events including mock battles. Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, near Shifnal, Shropshire, (0567 207). Tomorrow, Mon, 10am to 6pm. Adult £2, child £1.50.

COVENT GARDEN JUGGLING AND UNICYCLE CONVENTION In aid of the TV Telethon Appeal. West Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (Further information 01-240 5451). Tomorrow 11am to 6pm. Free.

NAPOLEONIC BATTLE AT THIRLESTONE Battle re-enactments. Castle and exhibition also open. Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, Berwickshire (05782 430). Tomorrow, Mon 10am to 5pm. Admission to all events: Adult £2.50, Child £2. Family ticket £5.

HOUSEKEEPERS OPEN DAY See life as it was on a country estate 100 years ago with staff in costume and croquet on the lawn. Shugborough, Milford, near Staffordshire (0889 881388). Tomorrow, Mon 11am to 5pm. Adult £3, child £1.50.

BANK HOLIDAY IN SWANSEA Events include Lord Mayor's parade (Prince of Wales Dock), UK Powerboat Grand Prix (in Swansea Bay), RAF town show (Singleton Park), plus Swansea Horse Show and Country Fair. Swansea. Today, tomorrow, Mon. Free admission to RAF Town Show today. To town show, horse show and country fair tomorrow and Mon: Adult £1.20, child 60p.

OTLEY HALL OPEN WEEKEND 15th century moated house and beautiful gardens open to the public. Exhibition about the development of the Inigo Thomas Garden Plan at Otley. Cream teas in the hall kitchen. Otley Hall, Otley, Suffolk (04339 264). Tomorrow, Mon, 2pm to 6pm. Adult £2.50, Child 1.50.

Judy Froshaug

GARDENING

Green with envy

Francesca Greenoak reveals the splendour found in the grass

CLARE ROBERTS



My awakening to the beauty of the grasses took place not in the grounds of a famous estate but in a rather overgrown London garden where the roses and columbines of yesterday were almost lost in clouds of chaetifoliate false oat grass.

Examined closely, the individual grass flower reveals pendant stamens, which can be yellow or purple, and tiny feathery anthers all enclosed in small, semi-transparent, veined scales with arcane names.

We tend to think of grass as a single identity but most laws consist of a mixture of species, their separate characters undisturbed inside the well-mown greenness. Nearly all of the common grasses reward close inspection. The flowerheads of Timothy grass (*Phleum* spp) consist of densely packed spikelets with double horns; sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), which has the warm fragrance of hay, flowers early in uneven shining spears.

A number of nurseries now sell ornamental grasses, most often variegated or grey-blue kinds. Gardeners' garters, which is a green and cream version of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* Picta) grown ornamentally for centuries, is enjoying a revived popularity and there is also a variegated form of purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*).

At Powis Castle, a successful scheme for using blue-grey grasses creates a pool of *Festuca glauca* (the blue fescue which keeps its colour throughout the winter) at the base of some of the fruit trees. Personally, I think such grasses are difficult in the context of a garden bed or border: they tend to look lumpy and out of place unless carefully positioned.

A more natural setting certainly suits the ancient meadow and pasture grasses best. At Sizerg Castle in Cambridgeshire, the meadow garden has a fine show of native grasses in flower including Timothy, sweet vernal and quaking grass. In a garden they look most attractive if grown as a continuation of lawn which grades into taller grass, or left as a sward a few feet wide by a hedge or under fruit trees.

I always make sure that I sow a few of my favourite grass species wherever I have an

area of longer grass. Crested dog's tail, *Cynosurus cristatus*, is neat grass which looks its best in June. The compact panicle has densely clustered flower spikelets on one side only and it shines silver-green in the light.

Flowering just a little later, golden oat grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) is one of the best sights of summer, with its small fountains of glistening flowers.

You do not have to be a flower arranger to appreciate the ornamental value of grasses. There are two species in particular which I cannot do without. One is tufted hair grass, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, whose dainty lax panicles are incredibly decorative. It is also very common; we collect it from the lanes and in our local wood where it flowers in late summer and, when dried, lasts easily indoors until it is time to pick it again (unless the cat chews it).

WEEKEND TIPS

- Plant French and runner beans and ridge cucumbers outside in reasonably mild areas.
- Prune lilacs and later blooms as they finish flowering.
- Put up strawberry netting, making sure it is taut and secure, as birds which get caught up in loose nets quickly die.
- Water young trees copiously if there are days without rain, especially if it is windy.
- Feed bulbs which have finished flowering.

I have now started growing it in the garden where the border joins the hedge and there are a number of other plants which grow near it in the wood and hedgerow, such as anemone, soft shield fern and bluebells. *Deschampsia* grows in a dense, dark green clump (a country name for it is *hazocks*) from which the tall flowering stems emerge. Some people think its cousin way hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) even more beautiful. Both are easy to grow and tolerate a wide range of soils.

Quaking grass is my other special favourite, and probably the most easily recognized, the overlapping scales of its spikelets making it look like flattened fir cones of reddish purple. These are held on to the stem by a hair-like thread which waves in the slightest breeze. The English native species is perennial, quite small-flowered and low growing but it has two equally attractive Mediterranean relatives, one larger, one smaller, which are grown for decoration and sometimes naturalized in gardens.

Both are easy to grow and are annuals so they do not form huge tufts if raised in decorative flowerbeds. For drying, the flowering stems should be picked when the spikelets are plump and fall but before the seeds inside begin to harden (or the spikelets will break up when dried). Hare's tail *Lagurus ovatus*, with its powder-puff flowering spike, is another attractive Mediterranean grass grown for ornament, occasionally escaping from cultivation in southern England. They are decorative when growing as well as dried, and they look well in tubs accompanying taller bright plants such as tiger lilies.

It used to be difficult to buy individual grass species except in agricultural quantities, but now there are several nurseries offering both plants and seed. Bressingham Gardens (Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2AB) has a variety of *Deschampsia cespitosa* called Bronze Veil in its latest catalogue which looks intriguing, while Beth Chatto (Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB) stocks a Golden Veil.

For those who like their grasses grass-coloured, there is a good selection available from John Chambers (15 Westleigh Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 5AJ).

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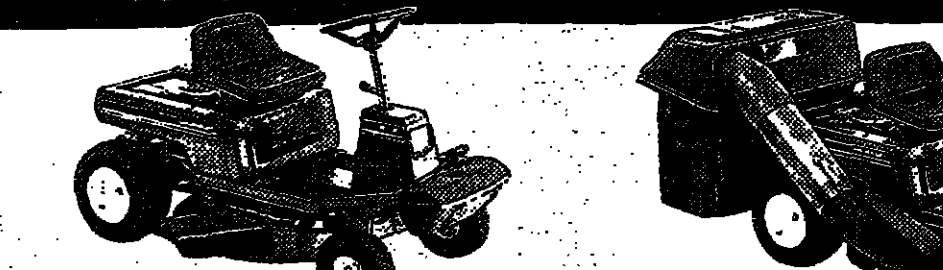
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After these thrills, however, the *Omnibus* (BBC1) history of the gramophone became a weary journey from Dame Nellie Melba to

TELEVISION

Helen Shapiro. Our guide was a dog with a slight resemblance to HMV's Nipper, which wagged its tail ingratiatingly and occasionally wore a Walkman with an expression of benevolent patience.

Most of the chronicle was devoted to the early days of recording. From the archives came film which put faces to the voices preserved on the crackly old 78s of the Twenties - the round Tetraxini, stern Gigi and flirtatious Galli-Curci. Yehudi Menuhin spoke movingly of recording with Elgar in the days when there were no playback facilities, and an entire orchestra would be assembled in a recording studio for a one-off performance.

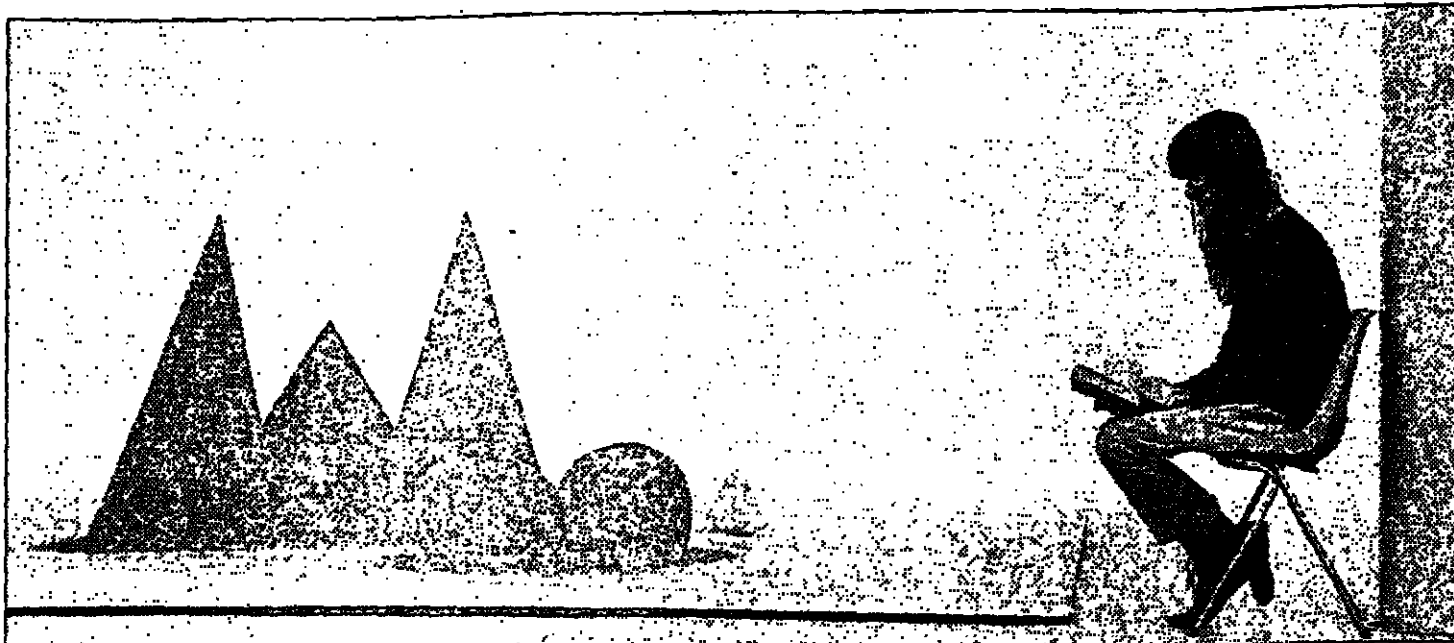
Odd choices were made to confine this vast subject in an hour. The potential of modern recording technology, which awes the most bumptious of rock stars, was almost entirely ignored; indeed, the scientific side of progress from Edison's tin foil cylinder to the modern compact disc plainly did not enthrall the producer.

The programme also took a view of events which was narrowly chauvinistic in the old-fashioned sense, and managed to review the history of recorded music with minimal reference to America.

Dispatches (Channel 4) reported on the work of the Women's Defence Dialogue, a caucus of European politicians which monitors the deployment of nuclear weapons and is convinced that under the guise of renewing existing arms, Nato is increasing its arsenal of short-range weapons.

Regrettably, this programme fell into a category of feminist reportage which unconsciously echoes the amazement of Dr Johnson at women preachers. The programme makers were so concerned to celebrate the sisterly effectiveness of the group that they neglected to present its findings coherently.

Celia Brayfield



Vivid: Anish Kapoor's powdered shapes, redolent of an Indian spice market, from the Starlit Waters show at the new Liverpool Tate

GALLERIES

**Surrealism/
Mark Rothko/
Starlit Waters**
Tate Gallery Liverpool

Amazingly, the opening of the Tate Gallery's long-awaited new limb in Liverpool seems to have been hogging the media for the last week or two. It is amazing, not because the enterprise is not wholly estimable and desirable, but because an equivalent opening in London would surely garner only a fraction of the attention. And this much publicity does make one fear that the new gallery, which opens to the public today, may end up seeming rather oversold.

What the public will see is a sizeable chunk of the western range of Jesse Hartley's Albert Dock complex (opened 1842), done over by James Stirling to provide several floors of gallery space: ground and first floor open now, second floor to open in September, third floor to provide office and workshop space, and fourth left for the second phase of development, some time in the future.

The present constellation of exhibitions prefigures what is to come: on the ground floor there are shows drawn primarily, though not exclusively, from London Tate stock, devoted to *Surrealism* and *Mark Rothko's Seagram Art Project* respectively (both running into next year), while on the first floor is a special, temporary exhibition (running until September 4) called

Affairs of Tate

John Russell Taylor finds cause for moderate enthusiasm in the Tate's much ballyhooed Liverpool showcase

Starlit Waters and concerning itself with British sculpture 1968-1988. The long-running shows from stock are free, the shorter special theme show has a pay-and-display machine at the entrance.

Obviously, for the moment, interest is going to be concentrated as much on the building as on its contents. By and large the adaptation does not seem to embody one of Stirling's happier inspirations.

For one thing, he has found it necessary to advertise the Tate's presence very obtrusively on the ground floor, painting the colonnades from royal blue and orange, whereas the most potentially trashy boutiques roundabout have had the sense to keep themselves subordinate to the monumental effect of the whole.

For another, given that the first and second floors have definite problems with height, he has elected, visually at least, to make them seem even more squat, with very heavy lighting and air-conditioning units in the ceiling.

Also, as in the Clore Gallery at home base, the lighting seems, perversely, to have been devised so that only the side walls can be properly lit, with light fanning out laterally, while the end walls are left in relative darkness, with no apparent means of remedying this defect. Of course, the building has been adapted from a warehouse into a gallery, but need we be left so conscious of an awkward transition?

The shows are, in some ways, almost equally perverse. The *Surrealism* show is fine (and beautifully hung), interestingly mixing British, and supposedly lesser, lights like Ithell Colquhoun and Conroy Maddox with the most important international figures such as Dalí, Ernst, Magritte, de Chirico and Picasso. The result is reassuring for us, especially when we bear in mind that two of Paul Nash's more surreal works are also included, indicating yet again that he is a great painter not merely in a parochial context, but in the

grandest international company one can muster.

The Rothko installation reconstructs as far as possible what the Four Seasons restaurant in New York might have looked like if he had completed, to his and his patron's satisfaction, any of the three schemes he went through during the years he was working on the commission. The effect of all these liver-coloured canvases against the bruised-avocado background he favoured in later years is sort of impressive, but suicidally gloomy, and one is more than ever inclined to take seriously his alleged comment that he hoped "to paint something that will ruin the appetite of every son-of-a-bitch who ever eats in that room".

Or is it being patronizing towards the Liverpool public to suggest that *Starlit Waters* is rather heavy going for even the most hardened devotee of modernism. The sculpture concerned tends to be of the coil-of-rope-on-the-floor, rusted-refrigerator-attached-to-the-wall variety, and even if one appreciates the self-denying elegance of Richard Long's assembled stones or the nice colour sense of Tony Cragg's piles of found plastic, it is hard to imagine that any section of the public will feel like paying for this when they can get Miró, Magritte and Moore for free.

Later on, perhaps, things will be different. Perhaps they would, even now, if the promised September show of British Sculpture 1908-1988 were already on the second floor, to provide a psychological jumping-off point. But at the moment all the attention to Liverpool's new Tate must seem like a lot of fuss about not at all as much as one might have hoped.

Loving in a material world

ROCK

Alexander O'Neal
Wembley Arena

In seeking boldly to adapt the sensual, intimate qualities of soul to the exigencies of an arena presentation, Alexander O'Neal produced a curious burlesque. Take the matter of the seduction routine during "If You Were Here Tonight", when a double bed was wheeled out on to the darkened stage and a girl procured from the audience. Looking like a frightened rabbit she was plunked atop the white covers and without preamble subjected to the amorous attentions of O'Neal, a big framed man, emoting and sweating over her in roughly equal part. Whatever else, it was not a subtle moment.

The disparity between intention and effect was a constant factor as O'Neal invited the audience to step in to his world of material comfort and emotional turmoil, a place where shirts and suits are described with reference to their price tags, and where if money can't buy you love it undoubtedly commands respect.

O'Neal's valet, Keith Demmings, whose name received

a billing in the programme equal to those of the nine backing musicians, was on hand to supply towels and drinks, as well as girls, for the master, who was formally dressed in a dark, single-breasted suit. But such "civilized" touches only tended to highlight O'Neal's tendency to perform with the kind of emotional range one might expect a rampaging bull to exhibit. The 34-year-old singer came up through the school of hard knocks in Prince's musical fiefdom of Minneapolis, where he spent time singing in rock'n'roll bands. The experience has left him with a voice of estimable power, but lacking the ability to conjure the precise feeling of vulnerability required to make a ballad like "Crying Overtime" sound believable.

Much better than all the songs of loveless despair, dedicated in a patently routine fashion to the ladies in the house, was the encore of "Fake", a slab of heavy duty disco-funk which dispensed with the niceties and threw down the gauntlet on behalf of "any real men in the house". Here, at last, the performance began to gel as O'Neal stopped trying to shoehorn his personality into the sophisticated lover routine and instead hit a more unapologetically strident note.

David Sinclair

Aromas enjoyed

CONCERTS

LSO/Nagano
Barbican Hall

The music was contemporary, so the audience was sparse. A sad truth, reflected in this concert even though it offered what one would have thought to be the irresistible enticement of hearing Gidon Kremer in Alfred Schnittke's Fourth Violin Concerto.

The tragedy was compounded by the fact that the conductor, Kent Nagano, was an inspired, intelligent motivator of the London Symphony Orchestra. They seemed to enjoy the challenges with which they were confronted, and more than those of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's second symphony, a work of deep and lasting substance which crowned the evening.

Even the most cynical of orchestral musicians would warm to Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Night Dances*, the piece which first brought him to wide notice in 1981. It was a pity we were denied his planned new work - doubtless a collision of deadlines with London's Berkoff opera *Greed*, due to be premiered next month in Munich, was responsible - but this homage to black music in general and that of Miles Davis in particular remains a score rich in imagination and colour.

Which left us with Kremer and Schnittke. Once more in this adventurously orchestrated concerto the composer has played an engagingly enigmatic hand. Are we in Shostakovich's world of irony, with all those romantic clichés being constantly mocked by distortions and explosions of energy? Or is the long finale, at whose climax the intensity of the solo writing (wonderfully delivered throughout, needless to say) becomes such that the player finds no notes to express himself and has to resort to noiseless gestures, a genuinely lyrical climax?

Stephen Pettitt

Silvery nuances

RPO/Ashkenazy
Festival Hall

A few moments of inspired caprice and an unforgiving silvery touch, not for the first time recently, saved a concerto performance by Radu Lupu from sounding disturbingly nonchalant.

Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto need not necessarily be played in a "heroic C minor" mould, but its first movement at least is usually characterized, rather more colourfully than it was by the fluent but introspective Lupu here. At least, until the cadence, this unexpectedly broke loose, just as the finale's presto coda did later.

Elsewhere it was a case of a deftly nuanced phrase here, an interestingly highlighted inner detail there, but here and there, rarely anywhere. The Largo drifted, the Rondo skimmed in rather Haydnian manner, and the effect of the conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy's rather more substantial treatment of the orchestral material was generally but inexorably dissipated.

I do not know how wide a repertoire Lupu plays outside London, but at the Festival Hall he seems stuck in a rut. He is a gifted musician; if he tackled something that really made him sit up he would make us sit up too. Ashkenazy's interpretation of Brahms's Fourth Symphony finally did that, though the first movement's upbeat pick-ups tended to lurch into life, and Ashkenazy does not yet bring the authority of a music director to bear on adjusting the Royal Philharmonic's balances. He mostly needs to wag a gently restraining finger at the magnificently confident RPO horns.

He does radiate a surprising warmth, and this transmits to the players. The performance was always passionate, but it was the beautifully delivered chorale of trombones and woodwind in the finale that had a touch of class.

Richard Morrison

Truth and ingenuity

The Deep Blue Sea
Theatre Royal
Haymarket

Whatever its larger claims, as an early diagnosis of Britain's post-war decline or a forecast of the feminist revival, *The Deep Blue Sea* indisputably ranks as Terence Rattigan's most comprehensive survey of English emotional inarticulateness.

Prompted by the sad case of Hester, a judge's wife who bolts into a miserable liaison with a clapped-out Battle-of-Britain pilot, all the emotional cripples flock round giving her advice according to their own definitions of love.

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THEATRE

To her husband, it means the recovery of a prized possession. For her callow public school neighbour (a reincarnation of her clergyman father) it means "spiritual" values and contempt for the body. For her lover Freddie, it means domination and a bit of fun, not to be compared with the serious business of drinking.

As for Hester herself, she has been struck down with an all-devouring passion which she has neither the words nor past experience to handle. She comes over as a Ladbroke Grove Phedre, recovering from a pre-first act suicide attempt to drag herself through a day in which she bids a last goodbye to her husband and sees Freddie walk through the door for the last time.

The mechanics are of a high order, even for this playwright. The play's ingenuity and unsparring truth are fully projected in Alan Strachan's production, but with hardly any emotional impact.

Perhaps this is because its characters are so completely creatures of their time: as Hester says of Freddie's RAF slang, "as dated as gazooks and odd's my life".

Finally there remains the alarming figure of Penelope Keith's Hester. She carries total conviction as a judge's lady; you can also credit her having quit the Eaton Square mansion for David Yelland's boyishly charming Freddie. Beyond that, though, what you see is not so much wounded adoration as a careful restraint. There is also the much-disputed question of the last act, where Hester decides to go on living. She does so under the influence of a disgraced German doctor (marvellously played by John Normington), a European immune to British inhibitions, a strong Ibsenite echo. There is another, too: her choice of self-fulfilment also converts her from a modern Phedre to a latter-day Nora, an alteration which this otherwise proficient revival fails to keep on the rails.

Irving Wardle



Miserable liaison: Penelope Keith (Hester) and David Yelland

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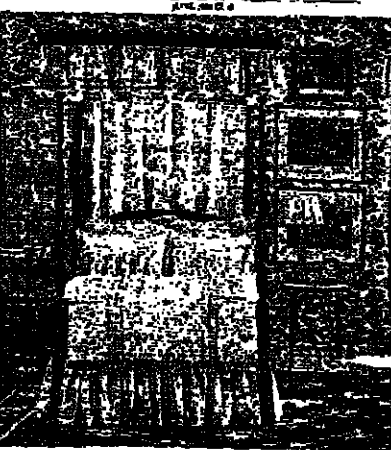
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REVIEW

Castaway days

PAPERBACKS

Foe, by J.M. Coetzee (Penguin, £3.50)
Story telling and re-telling become means of distancing and controlling reality in Coetzee's slim but fascinating *Foe*. This cross between *Robinson Crusoe* (with strong currents of *Moll Flanders*) and *Lucy Irving's Castaway* is a delightful detective story in the old-fashioned style, a fresh, light, and highly enjoyable read.

The Progress of Love, by Alice Munro (Fleming, £3.95)
A fitting lyricism runs through tales of Canadian Arcadian life in Alice Munro's enchanting collection. Through strange stories about loyalty between a husband and wife, lingering comradeship between divorcees, and troublesome ties between parents and children, ordinary life is endowed with a mysterious dignity.

There are often streaks of oddness, eccentricity or violence lurking in these stories. In one tale a woman burns an inherited fortune in the kitchen stove in another an unhappy wife pretends to hang herself in order to shock her unfaithful husband and terrifies her daughter.

Often events seem strange and displaced because of the limited perspective of the narrator. But the tone throughout is gentle and unchallenging, leaving the reader to piece together the story.

Sabine Durrant

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Diary of a Mad Old Man, by Junichiro Tanizaki, translated by Howard Hibbert (Oxford, £3.95)
Fictional novel by the Japanese novelist on lusty young spirit burning in an ageing body.

From the Reminiscences of Private Ivanov, and other stories, by Vsevolod Garsin (Angel Books, £5.95)
New translations from the Hamlet of his time (1855-88), the outstanding Russian writer between Dostoyevsky and Chekhov.

The Life and Adventures of Sir Laurence Greaves, by Tobias Smollett (Penguin Classics, £3.95)
Outright reworking of Arthurian myth, sending up the corruption and vulgarity of 18th-century society, edited with an intro by Peter Wagner.

The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, by Michael Chabon (Sceptre, £3.50)
American graduate grows up, makes love, finds himself.

The Road to Lagon Santa, by Henrik Stangerup, translated by Barbara Bluestone (Paladin, £3.95)
Scientific detective historical tracking down the fate of Dr P.W. Lund, the young Danish naturalist who went mad in the jungles of Brazil in 1893.

NON-FICTION

Britannia's Daughters, by Joanna Trollope (Cresset, £5.95)
Panoramic survey of the women, "Colonel's Lady" an Judy O'Grady, who helped to make and maintain the Empire.

The Master Muse, by Henry James (Penguin Classics, £5.95)
The Master's influential and still potent and highly readable literary criticism, selected and edited with an introduction by Roger Gard. "My dear lady, what do you mean by a nice book?"

The Life of My Choice, by Wilfred Thesiger (Fontana, £5.95)
The life and adventures of the last of the great, eccentric explorers, who travelled for love not stardom or sponsorship.

The World, An Illustrated History, edited by Geoffrey Parker (Times Books, £9.95)
The sweep of history in words, pictures, graphics in the genre where *Times Books* lead the world.

Work, Love & Marriage, by Janet Mattinson (Duckworth, £9.95)
Paperback original on the impact of unemployment.

Back to the hot Rod

ROCK RECORDS

Rod Stewart: Out of Order (Warner Bros. WX 152)
Derek B. Sulez from a Gun (Tuff Audio DRKLP 1)
Best Farmers: The Pursuit of Happiness (Curb ZL 71545)

Rod Stewart's new album *Out of Order* will doubtless prompt a lot of blather about that "lovable old rascal" at last getting back to his roots and betting out rock'n'roll numbers the way he used to. To be fair, the record is a slight improvement on the croaking cabaret-rock that he seems to have been putting out since the turn of the decade.

But the usual lapses of backbone and taste are never far away. The familiar rock-disco beat of the hit "Lost in You", a laboured funk version of Jimmie Cox's blues standard "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out" and a succession of off-colour ballads including a knackered stab at Otis Redding's "Try a Little Tenderness" confirm one of the clearest cases of creative ennui to be observed among the ranks of the Seventies superstars still at large.

The highest UK chart debut yet made by a rap record was when Derek B's *Bullet from a Gun* vaulted straight in at No 11. With the Eighties drawing to a close, the tip hop



revolution looks more than ever like this decade's muted answer to the phenomena of Seventies punk and Sixties psychedelia. Yet 23-year-old Derek B is only the first bona fide star of the genre to have emerged from Britain.

He comes from the East End

of London and, as he notes on his current hit, "Bad Young Brother" (saddled here with a disappointingly light and fluffy remix), "We get paid in pounds, not in dollars". Further cultural discrepancies between Derek and the American heavyweights are

revealed on "Success" where he admits to the heresy of preferring to invest his money rather than wear it round his neck.

In other respects — the boastful rhetoric, the violent comic book imagery — his style is very similar to that of

the American originators, but the most pleasing aspect about *Bullet from a Gun* is its air of wide-boy vitality.

Although on his previous hits "Get Down" and especially "Good Groove" he sounds a bit like a Smiley Culture voice-over advertising Arthur Daley's preferred building society, the narrative is incomparably fast and slick while the rhythms, beats and Jackson 5 samples are a delight. Look out for this young man.

Best Farmers, the roots rhythm'n'humour quartet from the "desert community" of El Centro in California, returns after a two-year absence with advice on *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Although the Farmers hold rank as possibly the greatest band in the world, this is a patchy collection redeemed mostly by the efforts of the new guitarist, Joey Harris, who is now making the key songwriting contribution.

Apart from taking charge of a delicately wrought version of Tom Waits's "Rosie", Harris's numbers include a couple of sprightly country shuffles ("Texas", "Make It Last") and one glib-edged classic in "God Is Here Tonight". Sounding like a cross between the Yardbirds and the Byrds, the song is an ironic tale about a befeathered, religious deadbeat and manages to be sad, funny, thought-provoking and uplifting all in one go.

David Sinclair

Soul songs of the jailbirds

BLUES RECORD

Jailhouse Blues (Rosetta RR1316)

and bed linen. As with *Murderers' Home*, the sound quality is imperfect and the performances — all unaccompanied — sometimes halting or incomplete, but surely few recordings so marvellously demonstrate the miracle that sprang from the tragic portage of African slaves to the southern United States.

There are a couple of game songs, "To Be Sure" and "Susie Gal", surely very African in inspiration, sung by groups and developing a potent rhythmic charge. In "Last Month of the Year", the voices strain at the song's bounds in a way which has obvious links with the emotionally supercharged modern jazz of Charles Mingus and Albert Ayler. Several women join together in "Anybody Here Wants to Buy Some Cabbage?", a prostitute's invitation, with a bawdy gusto that suggests first-hand know-

ledge of the subject. By contrast, there are striking solo performances from the fragile-voiced Beatrice Perry, who reminds me oddly of "Lined Heat's Al Wilson on 'Levee Camp Blues', and from the piercing gospel soprano of Elinor Boyer on "Gonna Need My Help Some Day".

Most of all, though, there is Mattie Mae Thomas, apparently on her third jail term by the time Herbert Halpert turned up with his recording gear in 1936. On the strength of Mattie Mae's five performances, amounting to less than 10 minutes of music, you would have to say that here may have been one of the great singers of classic blues: could Ma Rainey or Bessie Smith have improved on the firm, biting tone, the wonderful control of line and the careful use of ornamentation she displays in "Dangerous Blues", "Workhouse Blues" and "Big Mac from Macamere"? I doubt it. This album is available from specialist shops.

Richard Williams

A restless force

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Simpson: Symphonies nos. 6 and 7, RLPD/Handley, Hyperion CDA 66280
Simpson: String Quartets nos. 10 and 11, Coull, Hyperion CDA 66225

Muldrew: Piano Concerto, Saxophone Concerto, Various artists, EMI CDC 7497152

Robert Simpson's Sixth Symphony (1977), like Tippett's Fourth of the same year, claims to draw into itself the analogy between musical development and animal processes of generation, portraying its own gestation, birth and growth.

However, the focus on process is common with Simpson, and it brings to his forceful, restless music a curious link with minimalism. For despite all the similarities with Nielsen, Shostakovich, Sibelius and, indeed, Tippett (particularly in the main theme of this symphony's first half), the grand harmonic progression behind the feverish repetitive activity may

equally recall John Adams. The impatient traditionalist and the new man are one.

Simpson's Seventh Symphony is a bleaker piece, no less unrelenting in its grip, and both works are powerfully projected by the RLPD under Vernon Handley. There is insistent power, too, in the Coull Quartet's recording of two of Simpson's string quartets, where Shostakovich meets the contrapuntal knottiness of English consort music.

In Dominic Muldrew's music the references are sharper, the irony more brittle: his two concertos of 1983-4 both go in for a good deal of musical slumming, accompanied by the shades of Weill and Stravinsky. The Saxophone Concerto is more compact, and more immediately appealing; in the Piano Concerto the masks are exchanged more rapidly, though the CD indexing helps one find one's way about. These are works of black wit and virtuosity and they receive performances to match.

Paul Griffiths

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

The not so jolly Miller

Jonathan Miller is in trouble at the Old Vic. Since he took over as artistic director in January, audiences have been staying away in droves. Average houses are 60 per cent and Miller, with refreshing candour, admits that his boss Ed Mirvish must be getting worried. "Everyone here is being very nice and saying that the West End is in a temporary slump. But it is depressing. On Monday we were only 40 per cent full for *One Way Pendulum*, and that is a show that got good reviews and which has a comforting well known cast." Still there is no sign of his quitting, and he is counting on (yet another) production of *The Tempest*, this autumn, to turn the tide. It will star Max Von Sydow and Alexei Sayle.

Luce connection

Vivien Duffield finally picked up her Benefactor of the Year award this week. It was meant to be presented to her at the National Art-Collections Fund's awards dinner on May 9, but she decided her royalties on the night lay with her companion Jocelyn Stephens, who was speaking at a Royal Academy banquet. Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, received it on her behalf and a substitute ceremony was hastily arranged at the Courtyard Galleries for Wednesday. There she could not resist noting that since Luce "represents the nation which is the beneficiary of my benefactions, he was a particularly appropriate choice". Meanwhile, the next day, at the third NACF event in a month, Sir Nicholas Goodison, its chairman, won the unanimous backing of his AGM for a motion calling on Luce to drop his proposals to give the three London galleries the right to sell off works.

Unusual twist

Last month the Arts Council illustrated its commitment to the regions by picking the very impressive-looking new Towngate Theatre in Basildon to announce its grants to regional arts associations. The choice of venue was always questionable, since Eastern Arts put hardly any towards paying for it now it is looking unfortunate too. I understand that Anamaria Wills, the theatre's director, has called back the architects after discovering that you get a crack in the neck looking at the stage from the most expensive seats in the house. She has now reduced the price of seats in the first row of the dress circle by £2 each.

Andrew Billen

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 World's wonderful alternative setting for The Death of Hamlet? (3,7,7,2,7)
- 16 No 45 change here in Canada (7)
- 17 Hardy heroine was not so hot (9)
- 18 Old Italian wine near final processing (9)
- 19 Fitter's job to call about trouble (9)
- 20 Come to light as printer's error (9)
- 21 Russian leader is before Bismarck of course (7)
- 22 Constantly discovered icon-smashing in church meeting (11)
- 25 Dickensian taxidermist observed on stage or in transit (5)
- 26 Weight of a diamond for instance? (5)
- 28 The least bit of blame taken by a scapegoat (3)
- 29 French artist's making an entrance (7)
- 31 Equipment that makes the Communist party machine unserviceable (9)
- 34 Anyhow let us open the cornucopia, such being its contents (9)
- 36 They are thrown in a form of steel casing for home entertainment (9)
- 37 Sewer cover Wendy gave to Peter (7)
- 38 I see catch mislaid — subject to interrogation (9)
- 40 Bug's not the head of the Navy (7,6)
- 43 Show hospitality (13)
- 44 Caledonia, stern and wild, for the education of a poetic child (Scott)? (7,6)
- 48 Slings and mallets cause damage but these will bring you round (8-5)
- 51 Accompanying one in charge of the cloak-room perhaps (9)
- 52 Chancy business for one catching fish in the Liffey's limits (7)
- 54 Student, say, returns to fire the explosive (9)
- 57 Sort of sail, Mark One, or maybe a Wiltshire type (9)
- 59 Israelites for instance as members of primitive communities (9)
- 60 Sign a number left outside (7)
- 61 Pocket price initially quoted for goods shipped (3)
- 63 Lazy girl going round on board (5)
- 65 Many dance — look for the catch in this (5)
- 66 Doctor takes No 28 back to the continent — a play upon words (11)
- 69 Not easy being without a French department in Cambridge University (7)
- 71 Girth — of a knight-bachelor, say? (9)
- 72 Man left giant unusually ill-disposed (9)
- 75 Those enjoying the fruits of idleness (always in the afternoon apparently) (9)
- 76 Notice how people speak — the force of habit (9)
- 77 A milk-bottle party bird (7)
- 78 No impasse, this implies, save in cases of intestacy (5,6,1,4,6,1,5)

DOWN

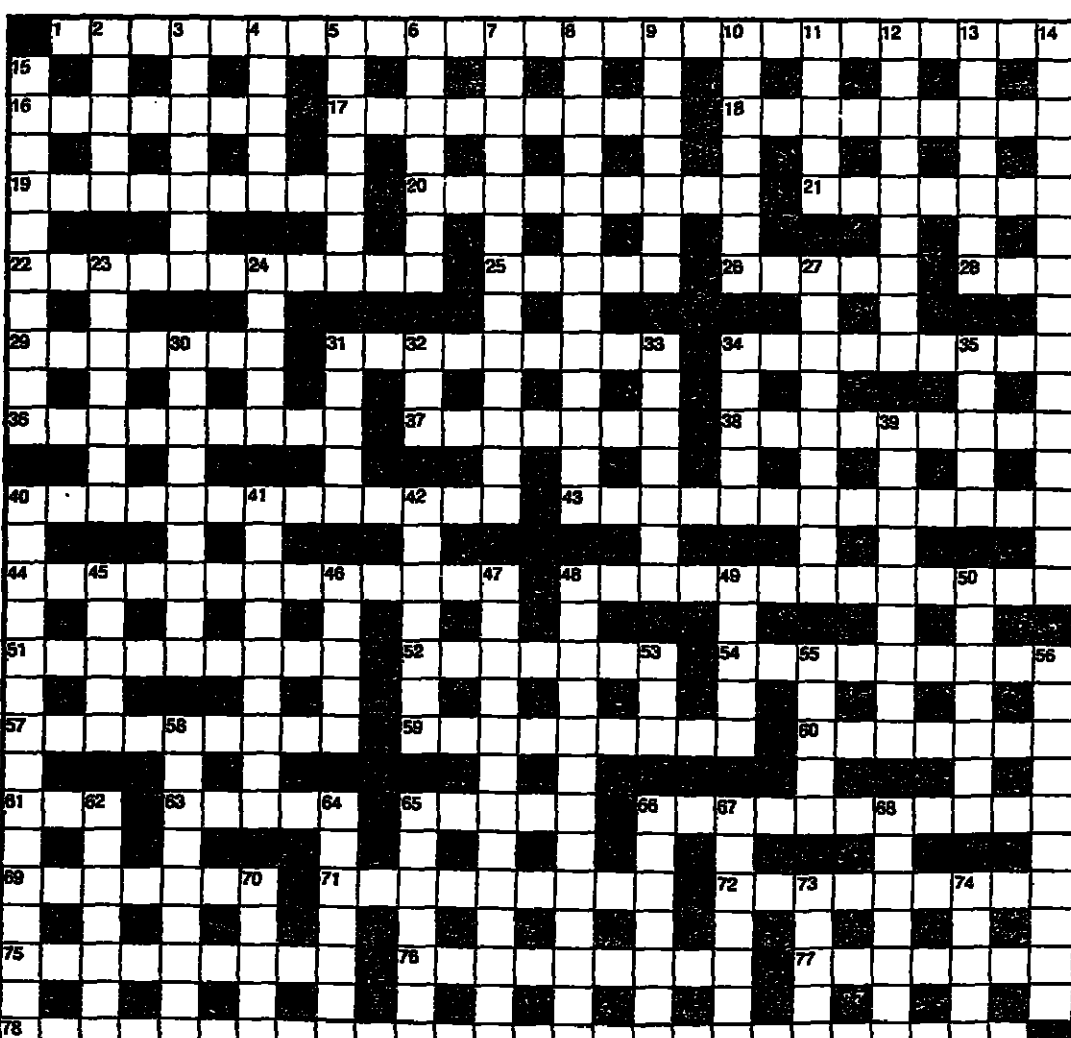
- 2 Mowgli's name for this puzzle (with a thick hide it appears) (5)
- 3 Marksman, say, performing with Ahab's weapon (7)
- 4 One complaint raised by Ruth's mother-in-law (5)
- 5 Like activities of Scarface supporting the Italian member (7)
- 6 Such the appearance of Caesar at Philippi and of Banquo at the banquet (7)

7 Criticism of one included in an insane rendering (13)

- 8 Found in a boudoir, or a first-aid post? (8-5)
- 9 Those producing, or in charge of, kids (7)
- 10 Counterbalances a description of where location signs are made (7)
- 11 Hay-binder seen outside the French bar (5)
- 12 Its inmates are said to be agreeable (5-4)
- 13 To spear salmon proves to be uncommonly sterile (7)
- 14 No common steps in suffering derangement (3,6,9)
- 15 Belated written request for dispatch of text of play (10)
- 23 Excellent light beer put up by The Orb and Sceptre (7)
- 24 Examples of luggage brought to court (5)
- 27 It's obvious precipitation is one way for athletes to lose form (9)
- 30 Notion eccentric uncle holds, describing geometry (9)
- 31 Man for instance following a leader in church (5)
- 32 "Now might I do it —" (*Hamlet*) (3)
- 33 In some strange respect he looks 6 (7)
- 34 One leading the field with due deference to Rex (5)
- 35 Nothing charged for fruit (5)
- 39 Sticky sweet product from a rum source? (4-5)
- 40 Far-reaching police power (4,3,2,2,3)
- 41 One armed with explosive, tent-rope and garden tools, say? (3,6)
- 42 Like the scene of Oberon's meeting with Titania (7)
- 45 A riot that's developed out of proportion (5)
- 46 Maker provision, note, in transport (5)
- 47 Through which Poe's stately raven stepped (7,6)
- 48 Put up records on rational support for sign relating to caves (13)
- 49 Sort of stone fruit this berry? (5)
- 50 Hangs about like Keats's Knight at Arms (7)
- 53 Is permitted to put up this tropical food (3)
- 55 Almost like wolf seen in bed, Charles Foster's boy (5)
- 56 Ancestry of which a dentist may be proud? (10)
- 58 Flower and fruit of an East Indian tree (4-5)
- 62 Measure used by analyst perhaps, the heartless brute (7)
- 64 More unpleasant row on which the Noise Abatement Society initially comes down (7)
- 65 Body at the head of a city in SW France (7)
- 66 Give advance notice of Public Relations Ordinance (7)
- 67 Like the language of love? (7)
- 68 The hue of bloody battle (7)
- 70 Six hundred rode into its valley (5)
- 73 Slip circuits of course, we hear (5)
- 74 A case on a flower of Damascus (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1575
(Yesterday's Concise Crossword)
ACROSS: 1 Louse 4 Fiscal 9 Drought 10 Snuff 11 Clay 12 Bungalow 14 Nougat 15 Tip-off 16 Lustreous 20 Tyre 22 Mamma 23 Grippie 25 Sceptre 26 Mosaic
DOWN: 1 Lid 2 Chaps 3 Top 5 Intestacy 6 Chair 7 Litter 8 Stone 11 Conditment 13 Marriage 14 Olympia 17 Lunge 19 Sonic 21 Dado 24 EEC

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, June 13. Entries should be sent to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, June 18.



Name

Address

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

ACROSS

- 1 UK skills training body (8,8,10)
- 2 Seen (7)
- 3 Brung up to date (9)
- 4 Unemployed (3,2,1,3)
- 5 Satan (9)
- 6 Pluvial state (9)
- 7 Whip (7)
- 8 Precedence (11)
- 9 Apennines peninsula (5)
- 10 West Side Story Juliet (5)
- 11 Female rabbit (3)
- 12 Main Dutch Antilles island (7)
- 13 Bow missile tip (9)
- 14 Formal meal service (6,3)
- 15 Film negative chemical (11)
- 16 Gently ridiculous (7)
- 17 Bauxite element (9)
- 18 Crucifixion plant (13)
- 19 First-rate event (5,8)
- 20 Runways (7,6)
- 21 Morse code components (4,3,6)
- 22 Six foot verse line (9)
- 23 Pouched aquatic bird (7)
- 24 Indulging (9)
- 25 Poor sleeper (9)
- 26 French national flag (9)
- 27 Wood boring tools (7)
- 28 Greek vase (3)
- 29 Curse (5)
- 30 Yellow Brazilian gem (5)
- 31 General taste pleaser (11)
- 32 First Mass prayer (7)
- 33 Satisfactory pay increase (4,5)
- 34 Candid (9)
- 35 Essential score part (9)
- 36 Apparent (9)
- 37 Computer instructions (7)
- 38 British Second World War espionage outfit (7,10,9)
- 39 Pivoting sectioned lorry (5)
- 40 Deepest ocean (7)
- 41 Ten iron (5)
- 42 Muslim 9th month fast (7)
- 43 Sanction (7)
- 44 Surrey Windsor Great Park area (8,5)
- 45 Most serious mistake (8,5)
- 46 Stage fixtures (7)
- 47 Long-nosed marsupial (7)
- 48 Partners (5)
- 49 Apennines peninsula (5)
- 50 Hurt (7)
- 51 High moral feelings (5,10)
- 52 Irrational, unsound (10)
- 53 Prospects (7)
- 54 Sag (5)
- 55 Formally gave up (9)
- 56 Huguenot doctrine (9)
- 57 Fossil's month (5)
- 58 Decade (7)
- 59 Speak slowly (5)
- 60 Space/time literature (3,2)
- 61 In empty state (2,1,6)
- 62 Very beautiful (13)
- 63 Late evening entertainment (5,4)
- 64 Small "greyhound" (7)
- 65 Link (5)
- 66 Like classical column base (5)
- 67 Unduly opinionated (4-9)
- 68 Pasternak Revolution novel (6,7)
- 69 Loathe (5)
- 70 Wealth-inheriting woman (7)
- 71 Corporal, sergeant (1,1,1)
- 72 Great Indian emperor (5)
- 73 Gourmet (10)
- 74 Il Duce (9)
- 75 Remarkable (7)
- 76 Reorganise forces (7)
- 77 Cavalry soldier (7)
- 78 Introductory matters (7)
- 79 Arabian firebird (7)
- 80 Sympathetic understanding (7)
- 81 Track (5)
- 82 Discussion theme (5)
- 83 Leningrad ballet (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1570 (last Saturday's Prize Concise)

ACROSS: 1 Script 2 Hiss 3 Bruise 10 Galore 11 Pang 12 Avarice 14 Sundry 15 Resent 16 Cassette 18 Akim 19 Escort 21 Tagged 22 Toe 23 Ruddy 24 Realty
DOWN: 2 Curtain raiser 3 Singlass 4 Therapy 5 Squam 6 All 7 Dark continent 13 Nostalgia 16 Roamer 17 Tasty 20 Odd
The winners of Prize Concise No 1570 are: Dorothy Borg, Castle Street, Oswestry, Salop; and P. Wright, Huntingdon Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS

SUNSET YEARS: Martin Gilbert's huge biography of Winston Churchill has finally reached its last volume, *Never Despair* (published on Tuesday by Heinemann, £25) covers the period from 1945 up to Churchill's death 20 years later. It takes in his frustrating time as Leader of the Opposition during the post-war Labour Government, his return to power in the early 1950s and his reluctant retirement at the age of 80. The scale is immense, nearly 1,500 pages, the treatment almost obsessively detached.



ROCK

GET-TOGETHER: David Sylvian, former singer with Japan, went solo, recording three albums of glacial poise and recently collaborating with Holger Czukay to produce a classy New Age collection, *Plight And Premonition*. For his first British tour in five years, he is joined by Japan colleagues Steve Jansen (drums) and Richard Barbieri (keyboards). Tonight, tomorrow and Monday, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081); Thursday, Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295); Friday, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775).



GALLERIES

IMMORTAL EYES: Cecil Collins, 80 this year, has been described as the greatest British visionary painter since William Blake. Like Blake, Collins stood aloof from fashionable art tendencies, but he is emerging from obscurity and next week sees the unveiling of a stained glass window in St Michael and All Saints Church, Basingstoke, and the publication of a monograph (Barrie & Jenkins, £25). An exhibition of his recent paintings is on show at Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London W1 (01-499 4100). From Tuesday.



OPERA

PREMIERE: Joan Sutherland returns to Covent Garden for the first time in three years to sing the title role of *Anna Bolena* on Monday. Donizetti's work has not been seen at the ROH for well over a century. At 61, Sutherland chooses appearances with care and this may be London's first and last chance to see her as Anna. We will go hearing her, via Decca's recording of *Bolena*, out this month, also conducted by Richard Bonyne and with Susanne Mentzer as Giovanna Seymour. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).



CONCERTS

KEY EVENT: Andrei Gavrilov, the outstanding Russian pianist, gives his only London recital this season at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday. The programme is mainly Schumann, with three early works: the delicate, introverted *Pavane* Op 2, *Carnaval* Op 9 — a series of portraits, some of real people like Chopin and Paganini, some of the creatures of Schumann's imagination — and the *Faschingsschwank aus Wien* Op 26, all recorded for EMI for release in November. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800).



FILMS

DAZZLING DEFENDER: Cher gets her elegant teeth into a courtroom drama in *Suspect* (18), the latest film from the versatile director Peter Yates. She plays an unlikely public defender, desperate for a holiday, who is persuaded to take on the case of a Vietnam veteran (Liam Neeson) accused of a horrifying murder. The plot thickens — and the implausibilities multiply — when Dennis Quaid, a brash Washington lobbyist serving on the jury, stumbles on crucial evidence. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), from Friday.

THEATRE

LONDON

THE BRAVE: New, by Sharmar Macdonald (*When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout*), set in post-revolutionary Algeria. Bush, Shepherd Bush Green, W14 (01-743 3388). Previews from Wed. Opens June 6.

DRIVING MISS DAISY: Wendy Hiller, Barry Foster, Clarke Peters, in a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Alfred Uhry about an Atlanta widow and her increasing dependence on her chauffeur. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-437 2663). Previews from Tues. Opens June 8.

EL SID: Musical by Dave Watts and Andrew Birles (book by Chris Bond) about a criminal still not caught 25 years after the armed robbery which made him rich. Hail Moon, 213 Mile End Road, E1 (01-790 4000). Previews from Fri. Opens June 7.

THE MURPHY GIRLS: Seamus Finnegan's play is about three Belfast girls who came of age in the Sixties. Drill Hall Arts Centre, 16 Chertsey Street, WC1 (01-637 8270). Previews from Tues. Opens Thurs.

TO BOTANY BAY ON A BONDI TRAM: Beverly Dunn's one-woman show about poet, journalist, feminist and social reformer Dame Mary Gilmore (1895-1982). Young Vic Studio (01-928 6363). Opens Tues.

THE WINTER'S TALE: First production of the season. David Gilmore directs Clive Arndell, Carolyn Pickles, Sheila Allen, Cliff Howells, Damien Thomas. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park (01-486 2431). Previews tonight, Mon, Tues. Opens Wed.

OUT OF TOWN

DERBY: Time and the Conways: Matthew Francis directs a classic J. B. Priestley "Time" play. Cast includes Tamsin Oliver, Carla Mendonça, Alison Skilbeck. Playhouse (0332 363275). Opens Fri.

SCARBOROUGH: Eden End: Alan Ayckbourn directs J. B. Priestley to open the summer season. Stephen Joseph (0773 370541). Previews Thurs night. Opens Thurs.

WATFORD: So Long on Lonely Street: Return of Sandra Ose's comedy, seen here in 1986, before a new tour. Palace (0823 225671). Opens Tues.

WINCHESTER: Tommy Boy: 1988 Malvern Festival play, by Ted Willis, with George Sewall, Peter Howitt, Louise English. The Elephant & Castle district in the First World War. Theatre Royal (0962 843434). Opens Mon.

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TELEVISION

LONDON

LSO repeat the work, preceding it with the other items played on that memorable Paris occasion: Berlioz's *Invitation to the Dance* (Le Spectre de la Rose), Les Sylphides (Chopin) and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SUK SONATAS: The distinguished Czech violinist Josef Suk plays Beethoven's Sonata Op 47 "Kreutzer", Janáček's Sonata, Martinu's Madrigals and, a particularly pleasant surprise, Bloch's Sonata No 2. Susan Tomes is the pianist. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Fri, 7.30pm.

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FILMS

MONROE AND HER GENERATION: The NFT lowers its brow for a lively June season celebrating the busy icons of the 1950s, including James Mansfield, Diana Dors and Marnie Van Doren. National Film Theatre (01-928 3232), from Wed.

ROUGE BAISER (15): Autobiographical film made in 1985 by the French film producer Valérie Belmont, with Charlotte Valandey as the teenage heroine swept up in the Left Bank culture of Paris during the early 1950s. With Lambert Wilson. Metro (01-437 0757), from Fri.

HIBISCUS TOWN: Powerful Chinese political drama about two women caught up in the turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution; from the stylish director of *Two Stage Sisters*, Xie Jin. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), from Fri.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Anna Bolena* (see above). Jacques Trussell continues in the title role of *Peter Grimes*, replacing an indisposed Jon Vickers, on Wed and Sat, June 4 at 7.30pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Tonight, Thurs and Sat, June 4, at 7pm, Nicholas Hymen's humane and enchanting *Magie Flute* with Nicholas Fowles as Papageno and Janis Kelly as Papagena. James Holmes conducts. On Wed at 7.30pm a further performance of the revival of *Fidelio*, with Kathryn Harries and Graeme Matheson-Bruce; and another chance, not to be missed, to see Handl's *Xerxes* in its pleasure-garden of a production on Fri at 7pm, conducted by Noel Davies. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL: Tonight, Thurs and Sat, June 4, at 5.40pm a strong, well-cast revival of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*; tomorrow and Tues at 6.20pm further performances of Nikolaus Lehnhoff's new production of Janáček's *Kaf a Kabanova* with Nancy Gustafson in the title role. Glynedebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111).

EXILES: A new series on emigré artists and writers starts with a portrait of the Austrian poet Erich Fried, who came to London in 1938 as a refugee from the Nazis and still writes only in German. BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.30pm.

THE SINGING DETECTIVE: A second showing of Dennis Potter's brilliant, unsettling "film with music" with Michael Gambon as a skin disease victim who fantasizes about playing a 1940s private eye. BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.35pm.

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GALLERIES

SCOTTISH OPERA: Tonight and Thurs at 7.15pm, further performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* in its new opera-house version conducted by John Mauceri. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

NAUM GASO: A selection of sculptures, constructions and drawings by a Russian-born artist who pioneered the artistic use of new materials, such as plastics. City Art Gallery, Manchester (061 236 9422). From today.

ELIZABETH FRANK: Recent monumental sculptures are shown alongside works by students of the Sir Henry Doulton School of Sculpture. Keele University, near Stoke-upon-Trent (0782 744765). From Fri.

ANTHONY WHISHAW ARA: Figurative paintings based on Velasquez's "Las Meninas" by a normally abstract artist. John Hansard Gallery, Southampton (0703 559122). From Wed.

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STEEL SCULPTURE: An international survey of steel sculpture including British representatives Philip King and Anthony Caro. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton (0824 85302). Until July 3.

SKYLINE: John Davies, perhaps one of the country's most interesting landscape photographers, continues to attract attention with work taken over the previous 12 years from Ireland, Scotland and England. Also on show, a selection from his photographs for the Valleys Project concentrating on Wales. The photography, 31 Charles Street, Cardiff (0222 41567). Until July 18.

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ROCK

LEONARD COHEN: Return of the baritone miserabilist. Mon, Tues and Wed, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212).

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: Joyous a cappella gospel harmony. Tues, Clifton Cathedral, Bristol (0225 63952). Wed, Congregational Hall, Nottingham (0602 419741). Thurs, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775). Fri, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212).

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(b) The journalist's rule of thumb for the questions that should be answered in the intro of a "story": who, what, where, why, when? It works better with some stories than others, but it is a help with sub-editors who cut copy from the bottom upwards.

GRAP:
(a) A deng-funk or generally a bitch-funk, from the Old Norse grip the space between thumb and fingers, grip, grasp.

TRAGOMASCALIA:
(a) Having scraps that pong like the pits, from the Greek tragos a goat + mascale the scrap.

GRIVOISE:
(b) Scurvy, lewd and lecherous behaviour, a filthy act, from the French.

FILMS ON TV

SE1 (01-928 3191); June 4, Manchester Polytechnic (061 273 1152).

NINA SIMONE: The recent chart success of "My Baby Just Cares For Me" has won the artistic, often sublime, singer a new generation of admirers. Wed & Thurs, Dominion Theatre, London W1 (01-580 8845).

COURTNEY PINE: On a spectacular triple bill opposite Andy Sheppard and guitarist John Scofield, the tenorist unveils his new line-up of Mick Hutton (bass) and Clifford Jarvis (drums). Tomorrow, Town & Country Club, London NW5 (01-267 3334).

ANDY SHEPPARD: Still riding high after last year's debut *Artiles* album. Mon, Porsche Club, Birmingham (021 773 5958). Tues, The Dial, Derby (0332 372374). Wed, The Blue Coat, Liverpool (051 708 5297). Thurs, Heston Woodruff, Glasgow (041 221 5498). Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2019). June 4, Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122).

LEE KONITZ: The Cool school altoist co-leads a quartet with former Kenton trombonist Jiggs Whigham. Mon to Sat June 4, Ronnie Scott's, London W1 (01-438 0747).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: The new production of *Cruel Garden* is given today, matinee and evening. A varied programme (Mon-Wed) includes Christopher Bruce's *John Lennon Ballet*, *The Dream Is Over*, with works by Paul Taylor, Maurice Béjart and Alvin Ailey. Two more premieres, of Bruce's *Swansong* for three male dancers and of *Belanchine's Apollo*, are in another mixed bill (Thurs-June 4) with Petit's dramatic *L'Arlesienne*, and the Tchaikovsky *Pas de Deux*. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8196).

TOOTSIE (1982): Superb comic performance by Dustin Hoffman as an

P.W.

CHOICE

Peter Waymark



● When the epigrams start flowing in Stuart Burg's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (BBC2, 8.10pm) it seems that unless the actors actually forget their lines the piece will happily coast along on automatic pilot. And then doubts creep in. Wildean comedy is highly artificial and needs an appropriately stylized treatment. Here we are getting very close to naturalism and instead of striking us as deliciously absurd, the extraordinary sequence of misunderstandings that lie at the heart of the piece merely seem tedious. We are not *in* *earnest* in *earnest*.

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL

9.25 Teesra Kinara. Episodes end 9.55. *Sethi's* Tales.

10.00 The World This Time. Includes reports on: Moscow Summit; OAU Summit in Addis Ababa; the United States in the United States on the "end of empire" in Eastern Europe.

11.00 Network 7. The first of a new series of interviews with notable Death Row prisoners. Louisiana. 1.00 (W).

2.00 Lost in Space (1990). Vintage science fiction serial.

3.00 Films: The Citadel (1938, b/w). starring Robert Donat. Drama based on A. J. Cronin novel about an idealistic doctor who succumbs to the sweet life when he practices from a Welsh mining village. *Minor.* Directed by King Vidor.

5.05 Bottom's Dream. Animated film.

5.10 News and weather.

5.15 The Business Programme includes news of Rowntree's battles with Lord King about a disappointing results.

6.00 Ice Skating. The Skis. Electric International Challenge.

7.00 Challenge to Sport. Women's rowing (T).

7.15 The Storyteller: The Luck Child. A dramatic European folk tale. *Minor.* John Hurt.

7.45 Dance on Four. Freefall. A work choreographed by Gabby Agocs and dancer Meri and her Company.

8.15 People to People: He to Pay. Bolivian women talk about the humanitarian cost of their country's efforts to repay foreign debt.

9.15 Animal Traffic. Part three of the four-part series on the illegal trade in live animals. (Orac)

10.15 Film: The Thin Man (1934, b/w) starring William Powell and Norma Lloyd. Comedy thriller about a married couple investigating murder of an eccentric inventor. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke. (Orac)

11.55 Film: Maita (1982, b/w). A political allegory written and directed by Salman Rushdie. The film whilst in constant danger of arrest by the Pakistani authorities.

Badin 3

7.00 French Nocturnes:
Massenet (*Under the
Linden*); and Sunday
Evening: Monto Carlo
National Opera
Orchestra under Gardin
and Fauré (*Nocturnes*
No 6 in D flat, Op 63, and
7 in C sharp minor Op
74: *Vlado Perlemuter*)

7.30 Philharmonia Orchestra
(Part One): *Lives from the
Royal Festival Hall*,
London. Giuseppe Sinopoli
conducts *Gloves*

134 (piano duet)

Stravinsky's Symphony
8.05 Musical Times Past (?)
8.25 Philharmonia Orchestra
 (Part Two): Saint-Saëns
 Symphony No 3 in C
 minor (organ)
9.10 Interview with Kurt
 Schwitters: Dr Klaus
 Hinrichsen reflects on
 Schwitters's contribution
 to life in the Isle of Man
9.30 Michael: Peter Hill and
 George Benjamin (piano)
 play *Visions de l'Amen*
10.30 Trinity Sunday at
 Worcester: Second Vesp
 Compline
11.30 Montecarlo: Viootti
 Quartet with Gérard Cau
 (viola) play String Quintet
 in A, Op 18
12.00 News **12.05** Closesdown

Hazlo 4:

Redhead and guests: **Un-**
 Prasher, Richard North
 Rev David Winwood discusses
 the "conscience" of "con-

9.00 News: Time to Talk: Harry
 Son reflects on 40 years
 of occasional broadcasts
 (3 of 3)

9.15 The Natural History
 Programme (r) **9.55**
 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 The Twice-Promised Land:
 Tudor Parfitt examines the
 pressures of 40 years of
 conflict on Israel's citizen
 army (r)

11.00 In Committee: A weekly
 round-up on Parliament's
 select committees

11.30 Seeds of Faith: Sylvia Sax
 reflects on having lived in
 the Congo-Rwanda region
 during the Congolese war
 (the Congo massacre) (s)

12.00 News 12.30 Weather

12.23 Shipping Forecast
WWF as shows 7.00-8.50
am **WWF as shows 7.00-8.50**
 into the 80s **7.20 Puritans** and
 Church Music **7.40 Free Will** or
 Utopia? **1.55-2.00 PM** **Program**
News 4.00-6.00 Options: 4.00
Continental
Education Values 5.00 Modern
European Authors: Collette 5.30
Euro magazine (new series)

Regional TV: on facing page

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.
6.00 Newtrick 6.30 Jazz for the Asking

7.25 World News 7.25 Twenty-four Hours
7.30 World News From Our Own Correspondents 7.45
World News 7.45
8.00 News 8.00
8.05 Reflections 8.15 The Pressure
News 8.00 World News 8.05 Review of the
Week 8.15
8.20 Sparring the Triangle 10.00 News
8.25 General Record 10.30 London
Mid 11.00 World News 11.05 News
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1215kHz/247m; VHF-90-92.5. Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97-3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF-95.8. BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9. World Service: MF648kHz/463m.

Post Office plans penny on stamps

By Tim Jones

The Post Office, which last year announced record profits of £170 million, plans in September to raise another £84 million a year by increasing the cost of sending letters. The move was immediately criticised as being "grossly unfair" by the Mail Users' Association which claimed that a quarter of first class letters posted failed to arrive on the next day.

Under the proposals, postage on first and second class letters will rise by 1p, to 19p and 14p, and there will also be price increases for higher weight letters, airmail and most ancillary services.

If the increases are approved by Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Post Office intends to use £20 million of the increased revenue on a "major plan to improve service to customers". The remaining £64 million will be absorbed in general running costs.

Pointing out that the last increases, for first class stamps, was in October 1986, following a two-year price freeze, the Post Office said the

announcement was consistent with the declared objective of keeping charges in main postal prices within the rate of inflation. A spokesman said: "Our record on prices in the 1980s is a good one. Even after the proposed increases take effect, our inland prices are forecast to be 12.5 per cent lower in real terms over the six-year period 1982/83 to 1988/89."

The Post Office now plans, "as a matter of urgency", to discuss with The Post Office Users' National Council how the £20 million can be spent on improving the service. Options include improving weekend services; improving delivery and collections; expanding stamp sales; and increasing inland mail air services.

The Post Office Users' National Council, which is calling for comments from interested groups by June 20, gave a guarded welcome to the proposed improvement in service but said it would need to study the plans in detail before commenting on whether the penny rise was justified.

Mr Andrew Dickson, the

assistant secretary, said the Post Office National Users' Council had been overruled after speaking out against the last increase in 1986 because it did not feel that quality of the postal service justified the rise.

But the Mail Users' Association said: "It is grossly unfair to charge a higher rate for a first-class, next-day service when more than a quarter of items posted failed to arrive the next day."

The association said that while there had been an improvement, it did little more than restore the service to where it was two years ago — "before the severe drop in standards in 1986-1987".

The Post Office disputed the survey and said its own much larger exercise, based on a monthly sample of 150,000 letters a month, showed that over the past year 88.7 per cent of first class letters arrived the next day.

The Post Office spokesman said that a recent Post Office National Users' Council survey involving 7,000 people showed that 90 per cent of first class letters not travelling long distances arrived the next day.

Cottage garden that stole the show

Bargains for flower people

By Ruth Gledhill

Thousands of pounds worth of flowers, shrubs and trees were sold at bargain prices and gardens were stripped bare in minutes as the finishing bell sounded at the Chelsea Flower Show last night.

In scenes comparable only to the Harrods' Jammy sale, elderly gardeners and normally sedate horticulturalists battled their way to the front of six deep queues of bargain hunters to snap up delphiniums at £3, dahlias at £2, peonies at £5 and lupins at up to £6.

Rhododendrons went for £35, hanging baskets for £25 and prize caudexes for 20p. A timber chisel was reduced from £965 to £450.

Some sellers were criticised for allowing buyers to reserve flowers before the 5 pm deadline.

Those who did not buy just stood and watched as huge delphiniums, trees and rhododendrons were carried out of the show.

Mr Michael Hobson, who paid £5 for an 8ft tree, said: "I have no regrets," as he staggered out of the show with half a mile to walk to his Mini Metro.

Mr Vicky Pierozynski lost the top of his 6ft blue delphinium at the marquee door before even leaving the show, carrying two others as well. "I do not really mind, apparently the flowers will be dead before I get home anyway."

Mr Peter Hayler carried a sprawling 3ft fuchsia on his head. Miss Rosa Della-Tolla brought in friends to help her with £150 worth of carnations, fuchsias and a climbing rose.

Mr Donald Hearn, the finance director, said the show was the "most successful" for years.

The Royal Horticultural Society has been praised by visitors on the decision to reduce numbers attending the show this year (Alan Toogood writes).

The society reported that the show was attended by well-informed, committed gardeners, who came individually as opposed to large parties.

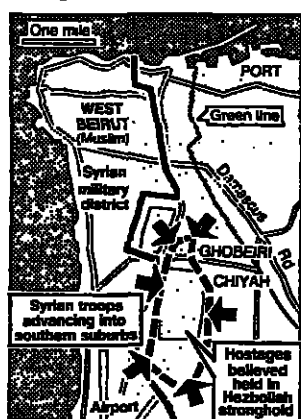
Although slightly fewer visitors than planned attended Chelsea, the numbers in the showground worked out as the society had hoped, with a peak of about 20,000 each day.

Exhibitors of garden machinery and conservatories expressed delight at the considerable interest shown by visitors, but many garden sundries companies reported that trade was down by 20 to 30 per cent compared with last year.



Mrs Jacqui Moon, a WI member from Piddington, Cheshire, in her award-winning Country Woman's Garden, one of the biggest crowd pullers at the Chelsea Flower Show, yesterday (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Syrian troops yards from hostages



Continued from page 1

the Syrians when they entered Chiyah. Such a peaceful arrival, however, might not have been possible if a dramatic shooting incident a few hours earlier had harmed Syria's most senior commanders in the city.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kanaan, who is in charge of the Syrian deployment, was returning from talks with Sheikh Mohamed Fadallah, the pro-Hezbollah Shia leader, when his car was raked by sub-

machine gun fire by a Hezbollah fighter. General Kanaan, who was driving, was only saved by the bullet-proof glass of his limousine, although several bullets punctured his car's petrol tank. Three other senior Syrian officers — including the head of Syrian military intelligence in Beirut — emerged unscathed. The Hezbollah later claimed that their nearest checkpoint had not been told of the general's visit, and the guard on duty had opened fire on the car when it failed to stop.

Hint on new union group

Continued from page 1

which would be "especially relevant in today's circumstances".

As part of the plan, which could cause one of the biggest splits in organized labour since the TUC was formed, the EETPU is approaching more than 300 small staff and trade associations which are not affiliated to the TUC.

With 270,000 members, the Royal College of Nursing is the largest non-affiliated union and a decision by it to work closely with the EETPU would form the foundation for a considerable power base.

Three days ago the TUC General Council charged the EETPU with engaging in activities detrimental to the movement by refusing to pull out of two single-union deals. The union, which has 360,000 members, could now be suspended by the next General Council meeting in June and expelled by the TUC Congress in September.

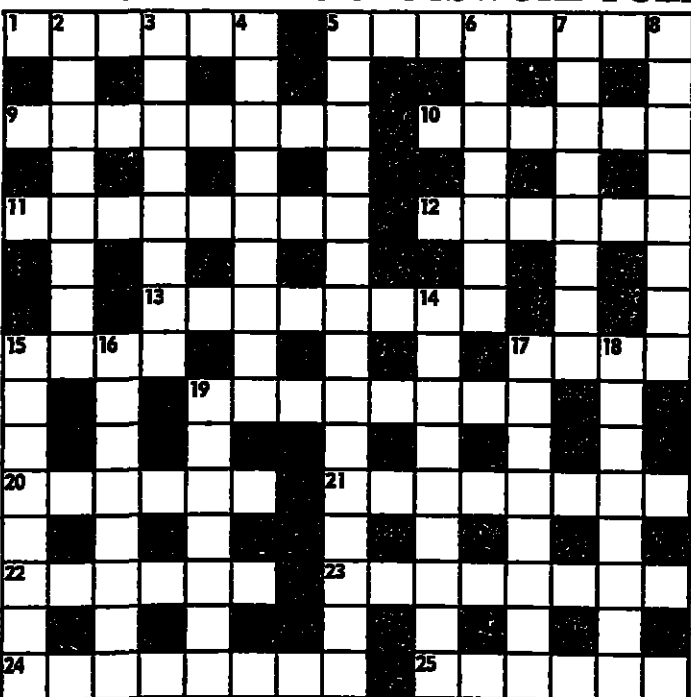
In addition to the RCN, the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers and the Professional Association of Teachers have also been suggested as possible partners in any alternative TUC. So far,

the EETPU has not engaged in any merger talks with the UDM.

Last night, the EETPU said: "We are interested in closer working relationships with unions of like mind. In some cases this could lead to amalgamation but it would depend upon the circumstances of the organization concerned."

Mr Clay yesterday told delegates of the EETPU approach minutes after delegates had overwhelmingly supported a motion not to ballot its membership on TUC affiliation.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,681



- ACROSS**
- Embarrassed firm coming before the magistrate (4,2).
 - Writer whose creations are snuffed out (8).
 - One found under a bonnet with a rod on the river (8).
 - Smoked about five and went round the bend (6).
 - Cabinet-maker adapting another's design (8).
 - It props up the sign of an old friar (6).
 - Maker of counterfeit notes, as from genuine bills (4,4).
 - Husband to take care of? (4).
 - Island boat-crew, say (4).
 - Sylvia's concomitant of kindness (6).
 - Confused man embracing Heather could be a Unionist, for example (8).
 - Horse, for example, making come-back for the plate (6).
 - A part of Rome's foundation has an air-hole in one quarter (8).
 - Follow at No 10 with name for largess (8).
 - Walton's bunch of keys for the front (6).
- DOWN**
- Piece of banana the main course? What a hateful thing! (8).
 - Draw figure and render an account (8).
 - Casting director in the theatre? (9).
 - For an abundance, divide the cards and make new effort (3-3-4-5).
 - The *ne plus ultra* fashionable sort of gear (7).
 - Ground-rent deposit. Conservative concludes, is a convenience (8).
 - Revolutionary movement considered a result of Doppler effect (3-5).
 - The very album for the autumn! (5-4).
 - Toledo housing (8).
 - Octavian is desperate for a break (8).
 - Having a part taken for granted, like the Oval (8).
 - Dare I nod off, being appointed to the ministry? (8).
 - The Campdown leaflet to take away (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,675

PALESTINE GAPERS
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Y I O N D R A U
R E C O R D I N G A N G E L
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Solution to Puzzle No 17,680

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I A R E S O L U T E T R E E
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WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

FIVE WS

- A type of moulding
- A journalist's rule of thumb
- Scotts solicitors' council

GRAIP

- A dung-fork
- Marc or rough brandy
- To complain
- TRAGOMASCHALLIA
- A snail's armpits
- A Sisyphus play
- The yellow Goat's Beard

GRIVOISERIE

- A greyish half-painting
- Blue jokes
- A conservatory

Answers on page 22, column 1

SHEAFFER.

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: G L Davies, Gilmore Way, Great Chelmsford, Essex; Mrs L E Funnell, Ironclad Ave, St Leonards-on-Sea, E Sussex; J B Oliver, Pound Meadow, Bisley, Surrey; D Pettit, Regents Park, Exeter; Mrs B Simpson, Passage St, Fowey, Cornwall.

Name _____

Address _____

WEATHER There will be plenty of sunshine over central and eastern districts of England and Scotland with inland areas reaching 19C (66F). Western areas will be more unsettled and afternoon showers over south Wales and the south-west peninsula could be heavy. It will become windy over western coastal districts. Outlook: cooler, with cloud and showers spreading east to affect remaining districts by Monday.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=clear; 6=cloud; 7=rain; 8=cloud; 9=rain; 10=cloud; 11=rain; 12=cloud; 13=rain; 14=cloud; 15=rain; 16=cloud; 17=rain; 18=cloud; 19=rain; 20=cloud; 21=rain; 22=cloud; 23=rain; 24=cloud; 25=rain; 26=cloud; 27=rain; 28=cloud; 29=rain; 30=cloud; 31=rain; 32=cloud; 33=rain; 34=cloud; 35=rain; 36=cloud; 37=rain; 38=cloud; 39=rain; 40=cloud; 41=rain; 42=cloud; 43=rain; 44=cloud; 45=rain; 46=cloud; 47=rain; 48=cloud; 49=rain; 50=cloud; 51=rain; 52=cloud; 53=rain; 54=cloud; 55=rain; 56=cloud; 57=rain; 58=cloud; 59=rain; 60=cloud; 61=rain; 62=cloud; 63=rain; 64=cloud; 65=rain; 66=cloud; 67=rain; 68=cloud; 69=rain; 70=cloud; 71=rain; 72=cloud; 73=rain; 74=cloud; 75=rain; 76=cloud; 77=rain; 78=cloud; 79=rain; 80=cloud; 81=rain; 82=cloud; 83=rain; 84=cloud; 85=rain; 86=cloud; 87=rain; 88=cloud; 89=rain; 90=cloud; 91=rain; 92=cloud; 93=rain; 94=cloud; 95=rain; 96=cloud; 97=rain; 98=cloud; 99=rain; 100=cloud; 101=rain; 102=cloud; 103=rain; 104=cloud; 105=rain; 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Guinness sued for millions

A writ claiming millions of pounds in damages against Guinness has been issued in the High Court and served on the spirits and drinks group.

The plaintiff is Mrs Beatrice Renfield, a substantial shareholder in the Guinness Corporation, the US company which used to distribute Guinness in the UK.

In the writ, Mrs Renfield is claiming damages both in her capacity as a shareholder in Guinness and as a former Distillers' shareholder. She also claims exemplary or aggravated damages.

The writ claims "damages of \$15 a share on 200,000 shares in the Guinness Corporation" as well as "damages arising from the exchange of Distillers' shares for Guinness shares."

Tyzack sale

WA Tyzack, the engineering group, is selling AR Heathcote, its knife manufacturing subsidiary, back to Chorley Securities for £800,000.

Holdings cut

The number of foreign-held shares in Rolls-Royce have finally been brought marginally below the 15 per cent ceiling imposed by the Government.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1958.97 (-0.78)
Dow Jones	2728.49 (-137.75)
Hong Kong	2513.70 (-0.79)
Amsterdam	262.0 (-0.27)
Sydney	757.5 (+0.77)
Frankfurt	1552.8 (-0.71)
Brussels	465.0 (+0.5)
Paris	324.3 (-0.3)
Zurich	437.4 (+1.1)
London	
FT-AI Share	923.48 (-0.38)
FT-100 Index	7000.0 (-1.5)
FT Gold Index	215.7 (-0.3)
FT Fixed Interest	98.82 (-0.05)
FT Govt Secs	99.91 (-0.16)
Recent issues	Page 26
Closing prices	Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rolls-Royce	480p (+50p)
Guinness	272p (+10p)
Haden MacLellan	125p (+10p)
Harrison Greenfield	82p (+10p)
Usher Walker	77p (+10p)
Westpac	77p (+10p)
Prior Marine	58p (+10p)
Tyndal Holdings	18p (+10p)
USI Bank	21p (+10p)
Westpac Bank	20p (+10p)
United Bank	20p (+10p)
Broken Hill	35p (+10p)
Granger	45p (+10p)
Wiggins	20p (+10p)
Tumbull Scott	55p (+10p)
Lex	38p (+10p)
LEF	34p (+10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	7.5%
3-month interbank	7.75%
3-month overnight bill	7.5%
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Reserve	7.5%
3-month Treasury bill	6.50-6.60%
30-year bonds	9.75%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.8570
£/DM	1.7177
£/SwF	1.4350
£/FF	7.775
£/Yen	231.75
£/Indu	234.3
£/ECU	16.6407
SDR	16.73851

GOLD

London	New York
£/ounce	\$422.25-422.75
£/ounce	\$422.25-422.75
£/ounce	\$422.25-422.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July) pm \$16.50 (\$16.50)
 * Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES
STOCKWATCH
0898 141 141

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● Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250

● Quick check of share prices: Leaders A-K 0898 121240; Leaders L-Z 0898 121241; Popular shares 0898 121277.

● Details and Stockwatcher competition winner, page 30

City fears of £8bn trade gap this year

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's trade deficit widened sharply last month as imports rose strongly. City expectations are now for a current account deficit this year of as much as £8 billion—double the Treasury's £4 billion forecast.

But sterling was little moved by the figures, with attention diverted to the handling of US interest rates and the weakness of the mark. The sterling index edged down 0.1 of a point to 78.2. The pound gained three-quarters of a penny to DM3.1857 but lost 60 points to \$1.8570.

The current account deficit last month increased to £525 million, from an upward-revised £285 million in March. For the first four months of the year, the current account was in deficit by £2.43 billion and is running at a rate that suggests the Treasury's forecast for the year looks highly optimistic.

Exports rose by a healthy £352 million to £6.79 billion, but this was swamped by the £592 million rise in imports to £7.92 billion. The visible trade deficit was £1.13 billion, which converted to a current account deficit of £525 million after allowing for the £600 million estimated surplus on "invisibles".

Mrs Evelyn Brodie, economist at Morgan Grenfell, said that while there was encouraging evidence of strong imports of capital and intermediate goods, the figures confirmed that the first-quarter deficit was not an aberration. She expects a £7 billion deficit for the year.

Mr Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, the broker, said yesterday's announcement represented "an appalling figure" and that the pound could now begin to level out.

Mr David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, the securities house, said that "bearing sharp weakness for the mark—the pound was likely to trade quietly in a DM3.13-3.19 range in the next few weeks."

Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry said export trends were difficult to read, after the effects in January and February of the new "Customs '88" procedures, including the Single Administrative Document.

Export volumes fell 3 per cent in the latest three months, and there was a particularly sharp drop in car exports. In April alone, car exports dropped from £187 million to £123 million.

Car imports rose by £129 million to £515 million in April, but the overall volume of imports in the latest three months was 2.5 per cent down on the previous three months. The underlying trend of imports is believed by the DTI to be strong around the levels reached towards the end of last year.

Treasury officials also pointed out that imports were unusually weak in the first quarter. Taken together, the evidence of exports and imports suggests the overall distortion to the figures in the early part of this year may not have been that great.

The April figures were regarded in Whitehall as relatively free of distortions.

This suggests that, if current patterns persist, the current account deficit this year will be at least £6 billion, and possibly £8 billion. There is an additional worry in that the rise in the pound could produce a downward revision in Britain's net invisible earnings, currently estimated at £600 million a month.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS			
	Visible	Invisible	Current a/c
Dec	-1,010	589	-441
Jan	-1,471	800	-672
Feb	-1,352	800	-752
Mar	-885	800	-285
Apr	-1,125	800	-325

Source: Central Statistical Office

Reuters buys 'A' shares in £30m deal

By Joe Joseph

Reuters Holdings has paid Aus\$74.2 million (£30.8 million) for a 48.8 per cent stake in Australian Associated Press Pty, making the news and financial information company an equal shareholder in AAP with The News Corporation, the international media group headed by Mr Rupert Murdoch.

Since AAP Pty is a holding company with no significant assets or liabilities apart from the 13.9 million higher-voting A shares it holds in Reuters, Reuters is effectively buying 6.8 million of its own A shares.

The stock market welcomed the move, lifting Reuters shares by 10p to 473p.

Reuters bought 44.65 per cent of AAP from the John Fairfax group and 4.15 per cent from West Australian Newspapers, part of the Bell group, at a price equivalent to 433p a share.

Mr David Keefe, a Reuters spokesman, said: "The acquisition was a Reuters initiative to the groups involved taken for commercially-based reasons. The deal gives Reuters the opportunity to express our confidence in our successful and expanding business."

The Fairfax and West Australian Newspapers' holdings were the subject of conditional agreements with the subsidiaries of The News Corporation. Reuters has now acquired them under an agreement with The News Corporation, John Fairfax and others.

The News Corporation has also lifted its stake in AAP by about 3 per cent to match the Reuters shareholding.

The Australian government has approved the deal.

Outhwaite 'names' fear £1bn losses

By Colin Narborough

A group of members of the Outhwaite underwriting syndicate fear its total losses could reach £1 billion, and have called in independent legal advice, Richards Butler, the firm of solicitors which is acting for the group, said last night.

The members concerned estimated that a standard £40,000 share in the syndicate could lose £600,000 each—far exceeding any loss seen to date on a Lloyd's syndicate.

Mr Richard Outhwaite's Lloyd's of London syndicate 317/661, which has 1,642 members, was last week reported to be liable to claims of up to £260 million arising from asbestos-related injury claims from the United States in 1981-82.

Richards Butler, which is acting for some 50 working names, said in a statement that it had been instructed to advise them on their rights and responsibilities, and is arranging a meeting to which all names will be invited.

This is expected to take place on June 9. The chairman of Lloyd's has been notified.

Mr Mark Connolly, a junior partner at Richards Butler, said the concerned members wanted totally independent advice, as there was a self-evident conflict of interest between any member and his Lloyd's agent.

It was the agents, who look after members' interests and select and monitor appropriate underwriting syndicates, who commissioned the report from Freshfields.

Mr Connolly said the members who appointed his firm were not only concerned about the asbestos claims and the present call, but were also worried about future liabilities.

Mr Outhwaite defended himself earlier this week against the critical Freshfields report, insisting that his syndicates were not in trouble and had the resources to cover the losses.

BP part-paid shares go back to the Treasury

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government has again become a shareholder in BP after the Bank of England yesterday returned to the Treasury the 38.6 million part-paid shares in BP it was forced to buy back when the stock market collapsed.

The collapse coincided with the Government sell-off of its 31.5 per cent of BP. An initial payment of 120p for the 330p shares was set, but before they went on sale, the market price for the 120p shares had dropped to under 70p.

Some 38.6 million shares were taken up by investors at the higher price. The Bank of England then offered to buy back any shares bought at 120p for 70p.

The shares bought by the Bank in that operation are the ones being returned to the Treasury.

BSC Industry has helped 27,000 small firms

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Thriving fledgling companies, from makers of tortilla chip snacks to furniture manufacturers, are doing well thanks to BSC Industry. This is now in its thirteenth year since being established by the British Steel Corporation to help economic regeneration of steel closure areas.

A survey of businesses assisted by BSC Industry carried out by the Small Business Research Trust has found that 80 per cent of them were expanding their turnover and creating more jobs. The 250 businesses in the survey were "generally buoyant" about their achievements, said the report. Only just over 7 per cent were actually declining.

One of the better known businesses which has been assisted by BSC Industry has been Derwent Valley Foods which produces at Consett, Durham, the Philips Fogg range of snack foods. Its round-the-world flavours include Mexican-style tortilla chips.

Derwent was set up about four years ago and has recently experienced annual growth in excess of 30 per cent with a turnover of up to £10 million forecast for this year.

West'n'Welsh, of Cardiff, South Glamorgan, a manufacturer of windows and kitchen furniture, reached a turnover of £7 million in its first four years and this year, following some acquisitions, is projecting £15 million in sales.

The average number of employees in each business surveyed had risen from 15 to 19 since being aided by BSC Industry. Most of the jobs were created by manufacturing businesses, representing a third of those in the survey.

BSC Industry offers various forms of help from workshop provision to finance, including soft loans, and business counselling. So far BSC Industry has invested more than £21 million, including setting up premises, to help about 2,700 businesses. It is now largely financially independent of the corporation, relying on revenues from workshops, charges, loan interest and capital repayments to support its continued work.

The survey showed that 65 per cent of the businesses had received financial assistance of which a third said that it was the BSC Industry cash injection which had made it possible to put together a full financing package.

Nearly half the businesses felt the help had speeded their business development. About a quarter of them said detailed help with the start-up process was the biggest contribution from BSC Industry while 47 per cent cited loans and similar assistance as being the most valuable.

But the survey also found that only a few of the businesses helped by the BSC are run by ex-steelworkers.

Kinnock urges Rowntree workers not to sell



Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, visiting workers at a Rowntree factory yesterday, appealed to trades unions and local authorities not to sell Rowntree shares to Nestlé or Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss companies who have lodged takeover bids (Peter Davenport writes).

He said it was in their long-term interest to resist the temptation to make an immediate financial gain and to keep the company independent.

Mr Kinnock also said that shop floor shareholders should hold out against the "terrific temptation" to make a quick profit. He was speaking during a visit to the Rowntree factory near Newcastle upon Tyne where 1,000 workers produce some of the firm's best-known products. They include 4½ million tubes of Fruit Pastilles, 1 million tubes of Fruit Gums, 3 million Lion bars, 5 million Toffee Crisps and 1 million bags of Jelly Tots.

Coca-Cola tipped as a possible 'white knight' to help Cadbury

By Cliff Feltham

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, was widely tipped to have lined up a "white knight" to prevent it falling into the clutches of an unwanted predator yesterday, as its shares soared on the stock market in heavy trading.

Speculation surrounding the future of Cadbury Schweppes intensified as Britain's other big chocolate company, Rowntree, braced itself for a potential knockout £2 billion-plus takeover bid from the Swiss food group, Nestlé.

But the spotlight focused on Cadbury Schweppes. General Cinema of the US has an 18.4 per cent stake and has just raised its borrowing limits in what is seen as a prelude to a full-scale bid.

On the stock market more than 18 million Cadbury shares changed hands as the shares raced up to 408p, a rise of 31p and a two-day gain of 38p. At this level Cadbury Schweppes is valued at more than £2.2 billion.

There was speculation in the market that Coca-Cola, with whom Cadbury Schweppes has close ties, has been picking up a stake, either as a platform for a friendly "white knight" bid or in order to acquire a blocking stake in the company.

Mr Dominic Cadbury, the chief executive, was bitterly disappointed that the Government failed to refer the bid for Rowntree to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He feels that would have given his own company a breathing space, and allowed it to explore the prospects of a get-together with the York confectionery group.

But now that escape route has been blocked, observers believe Mr Cadbury will already be actively shoring up the company's defences so as to avoid the same fate as Rowntree.

Rowntree shares rose another 15p to £10.44p. Meanwhile, Mr Kenneth Dixon, the Rowntree chairman, came under attack yesterday for not keeping in close touch with institutional investors who will now decide the fate of the company.

On Channel 4's *Business Daily* programme, Mr Harry Littlefair, vice chairman of Allied Dunbar Fund Management, said he was "disappointed" Rowntree had not been in contact. Allied Dunbar owns 0.8 per cent of Rowntree after selling a quarter of its holding.

Rowntree said: "We devote a great deal of senior management time to maintaining contact with the City. In 1987 we had personal contact with most of our major shareholders but records show that we did not see Allied Dunbar in this period."

BNS faces new court action

By Colin Campbell

BNS Inc, the Beazer subsidiary locked in a bid battle for Koppers, the US aggregate and chemicals group, has been ordered by a judge to show why it should not be held in contempt of court.

In a new twist to the \$1.7 billion (£915 million) fight, Chief Judge Manuel Real, of Los Angeles, set Wednesday for the hearing, after Koppers complained that BNS was continuing its takeover battle by running newspaper advertisements and frequently extending its tender offer.

Koppers said BNS's efforts were aimed at influencing Koppers' management and policies.

Judge Real ordered BNS to show why it should not be held in violation of a court order blocking the hostile bid.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 250 million to 450 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Sedgwick warning of further sterling impact on profits

By Colin Campbell

Sedgwick Group, the insurance broker, has given a warning that trading conditions remain difficult and the negative effects of a strong pound and reduced insurance rates are expected to continue to have an impact on results.

The company issued its warning after reporting sharply lower first quarter pretax profits for the three months ended March 31 of £43.9 million compared with £53.5 million earned in the first quarter of 1987.

Revenue fell from £192.7 million to £170.6 million and net earnings were 7p a share compared with 8.1p in the same period a year earlier.

The adverse impact of currency movements is estimated

at £4.5 million, though Sedgwick says that its operations generally performed well in local currency terms. An estimated 70 per cent of group business is dollar-based.

If the effect of exchange rates is excluded, then first quarter pretax profits would have shown a 9.5 per cent decline.

Mr Carol Mosselman, the chairman, says profits were enhanced by the earlier receipt of certain brokerage income compared with the first quarter previously, that expenses were contained in the quarter, and that the group had developed substantial new business.

A more detailed statement is promised at the half year stage, when the board will

consider an interim dividend.

The group, in which the Transamerica Corporation of America has 39 per cent of the equity and 29 per cent of the votes, last year reported a 25.4 per cent fall in pretax profits from £135.5 million to £101.1 million, but was able to maintain the 1987 dividend at 12p a share.

However, against a background of what is likely to be another difficult year for insurance brokers, from which Sedgwick can not expect to be immune, there remains considerable speculation in the City about the likely level of dividend payments from the group in 1988.

Yesterday the shares were 2p easier at 233p.

Dresdner buys 70% stake in Thornton

By Lawrence Lever

Dresdner Bank, the second largest in West Germany, is paying £17.6 million for a 70 per cent stake in Thornton and Co, the fund management group run by Mr Richard Thornton.

The deal values Thornton at £25.2 million – less than half the price being put on it before the stock market crash when it was planning to float as a public company.

Mr Thornton, who put the "T" in the GT Management fund management group which he co-founded, is selling his stake in Thornton to Dresdner, realising £1.5 million cash.

He will retain a 6 per cent interest as part of the 30 per cent of Thornton held by existing management.

Otherwise the deal is effectively buying out a group of institutional shareholders, including Hoare Govett which had 20 per cent, Esignt Trust, the investment trust, and a private holding group, Andrew Wier & Co, which held a 15 per cent stake.

Thornton has £800 million under management in the form of pension funds, offshore funds and authorized unit trusts. It made profits after tax of £3 million last year, producing an exit price/earnings ratio of 8.4.

Mr Thornton said he was not disappointed at the price, in contrast to the heady days before the crash when the flotation was being planned. "Not at all, it doesn't matter. The market crash hit us badly. I didn't know whether the company was going to survive."

CCM fund group sold to Canada

By Graham Searjeant

The Australia and New Zealand Bank is selling the private client business of Capel Cure Myers, the stockbroker firm it bought in advance of Big Bang.

The operation, now the CCM International Asset Management division of ANZ Merchant Bank, has £1.6 billion of funds under management, making it one of the biggest stockbroker-run fund management groups. This includes some pension fund business and also a Stock Exchange agency brokerage, dealing only for private clients.

The club made profits of £700,000 in the year to end October last. Mr Eyles said he would initially concentrate on improving its facilities.

Agreement has been reached to sell the division to Central Capital Corporation of Canada, which has a large investment management division.

The sale price has not been disclosed, but is only a fraction of the £70 million paid for the Framlington Group, which manages a similar sum.

ANZ is to retain the corporate finance, market-making and institutional broking parts of the old Capel-Cure Myers, which have been integrated with ANZ Merchant Bank and Australian stock-broking activities.

Treble chance offers way to win riches in buyout stakes



Reed International is the corporate finance division's dream. Originally a maker of paper and newsprint, it suffered in the 1960s from foreign competition and cyclical problems. It sought salvation through fashionable diversification. A raft of acquisitions, notably in publishing – in 1970 Reed acquired complete control of IPC – and paint and do-it-yourself products took the company into conglomerate waters.

The expensive but eccentric Lord Ryder gave way to Sir Alex Jarratt. Under him and more recently Leslie Carpenter and Peter Davis, who became chief executive in 1986, Reed has steered a different course. Diversification has gone overboard, together with "peripheral" activities: Mirror Group Newspapers, picked up by Robert Maxwell in 1984, Odhams printing business, paint and DIY, building products, Sanderson, Crown and Sawnworthy wallpaper companies, and paper merchandising (Spicer-Cowan).

Now comes the ultimate act of concentration – the final withdrawal from the original business. Reed is selling its paper and packaging interests, Reed Manufacturing group and Reed's North American paper group, in order to concentrate on publishing. With characteristic acquisitiveness it has accumulated 20 publishing businesses in the last financial year, on top of Paul Hamlyn's Octopus book-selling empire for £540 million. In nine years Reed will have been transformed from a group that was one-quarter publishing to a 100 per cent publishing company.

It will start the next phase with an

estimated £800 million from the paper sales. That may make Reed itself a tempting takeover target but the cash is not likely to lie idle for long. Allied with ambition and a higher rating for Reed shares – pure publishers have a higher stock market status than paper manufacturers, or indeed any manufacturers – the money will guarantee that Reed does not lose its acquisitive spots. Already in the business publishing market through Butterworth, Reed might look for example at BPP Holdings, which at 315p a share James Capel for one and I for another regard as an underrated, small but growing publisher.

In the absence of a better offer the Reed board will sell Reed Manufacturing to the management. Management buyouts of any size – at £500 million this will be Britain's second biggest after MFI – are usually misnomers. The sums managers put up tend to be relatively small, the bulk of the finance (and decisions on how the deal is structured) coming from banks and investing institutions. The lead in Reed is being taken by CIN Venture Managers which takes measured risks on behalf of British Coal and British Rail pension funds.

Buyouts, "leveraged" with loan finance to add profit for all with equity

in the venture, are a fascinating phenomenon. They are done for a variety of reasons. One is the inability of the top management to make a subsidiary or division perform. Another is a strategic decision to concentrate on fewer activities. Whether the reason is managerial incompetence or a big policy change, or the simple observable truth that most managers work best working for themselves, management buyouts have become the royal road to rapid wealth.

Parker Pen, which is seeking a Stock Exchange quotation and intends to offer a quarter of its shares for sale in the next few weeks, was bought out from its American owners for \$70 million early in 1986. The management, led by chief executive Jacques Margry (before, he was head of European operations) has done brilliantly, restoring a seemingly dying brand and turning losses into profits. With an expected market capitalization for the company of £150 million Mr Margry's capital reward for two years' hard, successful labour will be £10-12 million. As one Square Miller observed with a touch of envy, "you can't make that sort of money even in merchant banking."

The golden trick, of course, is the treble. Take part in a buyout, float the company and be taken over. Conceivably some of the rewards, no matter how estimable the efforts of the "new" managers, may be excessive. "Excessive" is difficult to define but one thing is clear. Boards of public companies have a duty to their shareholders to strike a proper balance with in-house buyers of assets they no longer wish to keep.

Mixed blessing of a macho pound

The April balance of payments figures will encourage "the economy is overheating" school of economists but they are unlikely to change foreign perceptions of the pound as a strong currency to be in. With more than £2 billion promised from Switzerland for Rowntree, the Government can afford to be relaxed about financing this year's deficit.

So can the overseas speculator. Even if sterling climbed to DM3.25 I doubt whether Mrs Thatcher would allow base rates to drop to 7 per cent. On the contrary, the next move, as soon as it can be decently engineered with the US Treasury, will be up.

Except for British tourists abroad, the high-riding pound is not an unmixed blessing. At a time of rising average earnings (8.5 per cent higher in March) it is the Prime Minister's favourite crop for beating employers' "guilt" of conceding over-generous pay settlements: a dear currency puts pressure on profits and, the theory goes, leads to a tougher line on pay.

The discipline would work even better probably if Warburg economists are right in believing that the rise in sterling during March, if sustained during the rest of the year, would add 30,000 to the ranks of the unemployed.

Be that as it may, there is a serious

concern among manufacturers over the Government's alleged discrimination against them and the harmful effects of current exchange rate policy. The argument is that it is not manufacturing industry giving way too easily to generous pay demands but the financial services industry, led by the banks and insurance companies.

Barclays is gung-ho as it seeks to reassert itself in the domestic market. Norwich Union has accepted 8.3 per cent as it finds it harder to recruit in the South-east, and General Accident has agreed to add 8 per cent. Incomes Data Services noted this week that settlements in the first quarter, especially in the financial sector, were up to 1 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1987.

But the macho pound is unlikely to deter bankers and insurance negotiators at this stage; however, they may be storing up trouble for their companies in future. Instead of taking out a layer or two of costs they are adding to their cost base.

They have not learned the lesson from manufacturing industry (any more than television did from Fleet Street) which saw the excesses of 20 years ago severely punished in the 1980-83 recession.

The financial services industry,

which still finds it hard to see itself as an industry as distinct from separate players in the money game, is becoming unionized fast.

This is the area where I see the first big reassertion of union power, aided and abetted by a lack of trained administrators in management and an abysmal understanding of industrial relations.

Though degrees of fat and lean vary, manufacturers faced with another pounding from the exchange rate have not the redundant capacity to burn they had in 1980. The next large cuts would have to be made not in the fat but in the heart – unlike the Japanese, who can make adjustments to the rising yen through their South Korean and other satellite suppliers.

I thought the point was well made in Courtaulds figures on Wednesday. The fallen dollar had shaved £15 million off profits and intensified competition within fibres and textiles.

The company continues to take out capacity and to "rationalize" but the high pound must look a daunting hurdle to Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman of Courtaulds, who has already administered probably the most drastic purge of any large corporation in Britain outside the public sector.

Sloane Club sold for £15m



Sloane Ranger's toast: Peter Eyles at the club yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

By Michael Tate

Mr Peter de Savary's Land-leisure group has sold the Sloane Club, in London's Sloane Square, for £15 million.

The cash will be used to build what Mr de Savary describes as "an upmarket version of the St James's Club", behind the group's Aspinall Curzon casino in Pall Mall.

The buyer of the Sloane Club, a residential club with 112 bedrooms and 4,500 members, is Norfolk Capital, which will pay £14.5 million cash now, and up to £500,000

more for the fixtures and fittings.

It was Norfolk which bought the St James's Club from Mr de Savary for £22 million last summer.

Land-leisure acquired the Sloane Club last year, when it paid £14.1 million for a company called Passplanet.

Mr de Savary said that the decision to sell the Sloane Club had been taken because the group was now confident that it would receive permission to develop the surplus freehold property at Aspinalls as an hotel.

"We'd rather be in Mayfair

than in Sloane Square, and we have freehold rather than leasehold," he explained.

Mr Peter Eyles, the managing director of Norfolk, said the Sloane would give the group another large, well-positioned property in central London, capable to further development. "It has a good record of profits that we are confident will continue to improve under Norfolk's management," he added.

The club made profits of £700,000 in the year to end October last. Mr Eyles said he would initially concentrate on improving its facilities.

Eurotunnel rebuke at customs plan

By Joe Joseph

Mr Peter Price, a Conservative MEP, yesterday admonished Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French Channel tunnel group, for continuing to discuss with the Government how best to carry out customs and immigration procedures for the tunnel when customs would be redundant in Europe by the time the fixed-rail link opens to traffic in 1993.

One of the few non-railway enthusiasts to raise his voice at yesterday's first shareholders' meeting in London of the newly-formed company, Mr Price said that the Single European Act, which came into force last year, committed all 12 member states to an area without frontiers by 1992.

He said the demands of the Act undermined the need for Eurotunnel to reserve acres of

space – as it has done – for a customs hall for tunnel travellers or to continue negotiating with customs officials over how travellers will be cleared.

Mr Alastair Morton, Euro-tunnel's co-chairman, said the arrangements being made for customs and immigration control were contingency plans, and that the customs hall could readily be turned into a car park.

Pay is the key to balance of payments

How wage bargainers can help economy by cutting demand

Interest rates have been cut to their lowest level for a decade, forced by the burgeoning strength of the exchange rate. The crucial question now facing the financial markets and policy-makers is: can the British economy stand low interest rates and a strong pound?

Since the pound was "uncapped" just before the March Budget interest rates have been cut three times by a total of 1.5 percentage points while the pound has risen 6 per cent.

It has been claimed that this leaves the "tightness" of monetary policy unchanged since the two variables have opposite and offsetting impacts. However, the pound and interest rates have a quite different impact on the economy and the current mix may not be desirable, as the Bank of England suggests in its latest Bulletin.

A strong pound will bear down on inflation by cheapening imports and by increasing competitive pressures on British industry. If the current mix was sustained through the next year and a half, inflation could be stabilized at about 3 per cent. This result is predicted by the Treasury's economic model in work carried out by the Item Club and Ernst & Whinney, the accountants.

However, low interest rates stimulate credit demand and spending, and Item forecasts that the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments will nearly double from £4.7 billion this year to £9.3 billion in 1989, which is

After a disappointing set of trade figures for April, the ITEM Club of economic forecasters asks how long the economy can stand low interest rates and a strong pound

almost 2 per cent of gross national product. This suggests that the British economy will not be able to sustain the current mix of low interest rates and a strong pound for long.

Just as the authorities were unable to "buck the market" on the way up, market pressure will eventually bring the pound down. But the authorities are likely to resist attempts to bring the pound down a long way by raising interest rates back up to the levels seen earlier this year.

They will resist not least because the Treasury's economic model shows that a depreciation of the pound has beneficial effects to competitiveness and output only in the short-run. After five years all the benefits are lost in higher inflation, led by wages.

The key to Britain's economic success in 1989 will be the extent to which higher wage inflation can be prevented, because some decline in the pound is inevitable.

Competitiveness is the major issue in this analysis. The current trend in pay negotiations, with some well-publicised settlements of 7 per cent and over, is critical because of the damage it could do to competitiveness.

Working to boost competitiveness is the 11 per cent rise in fixed investment by manufacturers expected this year, which should go a long way to consolidate recent productiv-

ity gains of 7 per cent a year, making them less vulnerable to a slowdown in output growth. But despite encouraging signs of a supply-side revival, productivity growth will not offset the recent rise in earnings growth.

There is a clear need for wage bargainers to adopt more realistic targets, in particular there is a need for employers to resist the temptation of submitting to pay demands in excess of productivity gains, in the hope that extra unit costs can be passed on in price increases.

The potential balance of payments problem would be less if spending in Britain was not running so much faster than the growth of the national export markets. The adjustments required by wages and the exchange rate to improve competitiveness would be much less if the country's spending slowed relative to spending abroad.

This rebalancing of relative demand could come about by a revival of world trade growth which would boost Britain's export revenues. The news coming out of the US and Japan suggests stronger growth than was expected at the start of the year.

Item expects GNP growth among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to slow to 1.9 per cent in 1989 after 2.9 per cent this year.

Rebalancing could come about by lower domestic demand which would reduce British import costs. This will not happen this year. Item forecasts consumer expenditure growth of almost 5 per cent again this year boosted by strong real incomes, and interest rate and tax cuts. Fixed investment, which has a high import content, is forecast to rise by 6.4 per cent.

The benefit to the current account from a lower pound together with lower wage growth and higher interest rates will be felt mainly on the current account of the balance of payments.

A slightly lower rate of growth would need to be accepted under this scenario with the economy expanding next year by only 1.7 per cent compared with 2.1 per cent under existing policies. Inflation would be slightly higher at 3.8 per cent against 3.1 per cent. But the current account deficit would be a more manageable £6.9 billion compared with £9.3 billion.

The main uncertainty is whether wage inflation will slow or, on the contrary, whether Britain will be haunted by the return of the old "British disease" of periodic balance of payments crises.

Brian Pearce
Economic adviser
at the Item Club
Michael Hodson
Senior consultant
at Ernst & Whinney

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin	Algonquin																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 78.2 (day's range 78.2-78.3)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for May 27				Argentine austral	16,487.16-16,534.54
	Range	Closes	1 month	3 months	Australia dollar
New York	1,991.1-2,026.28	1,993.5	1,957.50-1,970.00	0.05-0.01	2,559.6-2,570.8
Montreal	2,525.1-2,580	2,571.3-2,594.32	0.25-0.27	0.07-0.08	0.6955-0.70
London	3,582.5-3,600	3,582.5	3,582.5	3,582.5	0.6955-0.70
Brussels	65.20-65.45	65.25-65.44	8-p	26-29	Brazil cruzeiro
Copenhagen	12,095.12-12,176	12,111.12-12,176	1%-1.5%	4.4%-4.5%	0.27-0.29
Helsinki	12,095.12-12,176	12,111.12-12,176	1%-1.5%	4.4%-4.5%	0.27-0.29
Frankfurt	3,769.3-4,004	3,769.3-4,004	1%-1%	3%-3.5%	0.27-0.29
Paris	234.05-234.68	234.05-234.68	70-100	230-235	Ceylon pound
Madrid	59.25-61.04	59.25-61.04	115-120	115-120	0.27-0.29
Osaka	11,224.5-11,256	11,224.5-11,256	3-4	14-15	China dollar
Porto	10,225.1-10,256	10,225.1-10,256	6%-6.75%	15%-15.25%	0.27-0.29
San Francisco	11,020.1-11,042	11,020.1-11,042	25-25.5	6%-7%	0.27-0.29
Tokyo	231.75-232.25	231.75-232.25	3-p	21-21.5p	S Africa rand (fint)
Vienna	22.22-22.45	22.22-22.45	74-75p	62-154p	S Africa rand (cont)
Zurich	2,581.1-2,594	2,581.1-2,594	3-p	3%-3.5p	4,132.4-4,148.5

London = dr., Deutsche = dm.

1 U.S. dollar = Bank of England's £1 = 100 pence.
 *Note: See Foreign Bankers' Association
 List and Securities Bank FOEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Finland	1,591.5-1,590	Denmark	6,522.0-5,270	Italy	127.1-127.0
Singapore	2,016.5-2,017.5	W Germany	7,133.3-7,141	Belgium (Com)	35.70-35.5
Australia	2,594.5-2,595	Switzerland	4,430.2-4,431.2	Hong Kong	7,914.7-8,158
Malaysia	1,233.1-1,233	Netherlands	1,917.5-1,918.5	Portugal	139.40-139.80
Canada	1,245.1-1,245.5	France	5,780.5-5,785	Spain	113.77-113.27
Sweden	5,238.0-5,430	Japan	124.55-125.5	U.S.	2.04-1.25
Israel	5,210.0-5,210				

Rates supplied by Citicorp Bank, NY and Bank of Mexico, Mexico City

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

BULLION:

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Eurodollar						US Treasury Bond					
Mar	92.06	92.14	92.04	92.14	7674	Jan 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Apr	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Feb 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
May	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Mar 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Jun	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Apr 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Jul	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	May 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Aug	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Jun 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Sep	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Jul 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Oct	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Aug 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Nov	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Sep 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Dec	92.06	92.12	92.04	92.12	5201	Oct 87	94-12	94-12	94-12	94-12	5549
Three Month Eurodollar						FT-SE 100					
Mar	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Jan 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Apr	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Feb 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
May	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Mar 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Jun	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Apr 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Jul	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	May 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Aug	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Jun 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Sep	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Jul 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Oct	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Aug 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Nov	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Sep 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Dec	91.69	91.80	91.64	91.68	3884	Oct 87	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50	1772.50
Japanese Gov Bond						Japanese Gov Bond					
Mar	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Jan 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Apr	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Feb 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
May	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Mar 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Jun	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Apr 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Jul	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	May 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Aug	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Jun 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Sep	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Jul 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Oct	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Aug 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Nov	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Sep 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82
Dec	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	Oct 87	104.82	104.82	104.82	104.82	

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or better this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash	Div
1	British Airways	Transport	100	100
2	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
3	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
4	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
5	British Steel	Steel	100	100
6	British Airways	Transport	100	100
7	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
8	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
9	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
10	British Steel	Steel	100	100
11	British Airways	Transport	100	100
12	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
13	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
14	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
15	British Steel	Steel	100	100
16	British Airways	Transport	100	100
17	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
18	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
19	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
20	British Steel	Steel	100	100
21	British Airways	Transport	100	100
22	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
23	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
24	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
25	British Steel	Steel	100	100
26	British Airways	Transport	100	100
27	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
28	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
29	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
30	British Steel	Steel	100	100
31	British Airways	Transport	100	100
32	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
33	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
34	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
35	British Steel	Steel	100	100
36	British Airways	Transport	100	100
37	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
38	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
39	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
40	British Steel	Steel	100	100
41	British Airways	Transport	100	100
42	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
43	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
44	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
45	British Steel	Steel	100	100
46	British Airways	Transport	100	100
47	British Telecom	Telecom	100	100
48	British Petroleum	Oil	100	100
49	British Gas	Utilities	100	100
50	British Steel	Steel	100	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

UNDATED

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Lack of support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 23. Dealings end June 3. Contango day June 6. Settlement day June 13.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 25).

BREWERIES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

CINEMAS, TV

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

FOODS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

S-Z

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

INSURANCE

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

LEISURE

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

MINING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

SHIPPING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

TEXTILES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

TOBACCO

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000
Claims required for 221 points
ACCUMULATOR £50,000
Claims better than 221 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

SHIPPING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

TEXTILES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

TOBACCO

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend a interim payment passed 1 Price at suspension b Dividend and profit exclude a special payment c Pre-merger figures d Forecast earnings e Ex other f Ex rights g Ex stock of share split h Tax-free ... No significant data.

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

New way to share

The public may soon be offered the chance to take a risk on the profitability of building societies.

Building societies have been given the go-ahead to devise novel capital-raising plans by the Building Societies Commission, Michael Bridgeman, who told delegates at the Building Societies Association annual meeting in Torquay this week that he was prepared to examine schemes to issue shares "more akin to equity shares in a company than to traditional building society shares".

The only precedent is in Australia where the RESI Statewide Building Society raised permanent capital from its members seven years ago. Others are now following suit.

The building society remains a mutual with a one-man-one-vote rule.

But this has not deterred institutions such as New York pension funds from becoming long-term holders of the

shares. One of Australia's largest stockbrokers makes a market in the shares, and so far there have been more buyers than sellers. The market has been buoyant.

These equity shares form part of the society's permanent capital — once issued, they could not be recalled, but the liquidity from the investors' point of view would come from the after-market.

Mark Boleat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, believes it is essential to have an outside market-maker in these shares rather than leaving it to the societies themselves to match buyers and sellers.

The shares could attract a small rate of interest topped up with extra interest dependent on the society's profitability, or they could receive dividends entirely dependent on profits. These could be determined by a pre-set formula or declared by the board.

Building societies would have to emphasize that these

shares are totally different from ordinary deposit accounts or share accounts, which do not have the same trading risk element.

Building society profits are substantial. The Halifax, Britain's largest, made a £225 million profit last year, the Alliance & Leicester £67.9 million, National & Provincial £48.8 million. Even smaller societies such as the Skipton, Chelsea and Coventry made more than £8 million.

This novel form of new capital would not detract from the societies' mutual status and would provide another avenue for them to explore before confronting the issue of becoming a public limited company. But access to capital is just one of the reasons for them to pursue the plan route.

John Wrigglesworth, a full-time building societies analyst with stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, believes equity shares could be "a move in the right direction". However, he feels

it is a rather uneasy compromise. Investors will be offered risk-bearing shares without ownership.

As a result, societies might find they have to pay over the odds for this form of capital.

The shares would be akin to unredeemable gilts. The difference is that government debt has a Triple-A credit rating while the best building society merits a Double-A minus.

Mr Wrigglesworth, who used to work for the Abbey National and helped in its plans for becoming a plc, said there was a danger of confusing the public over what they were buying. Mr Wrigglesworth says building societies are trying to gain all the advantages of public companies without facing up to the regulations and responsibilities of actually taking the plunge and becoming Stock Exchange-quoted companies.

Vivien Goldsmith



Barrie: advice to the societies

Alert on cowboy builders

Building societies should take a greater interest in the standard of home improvement work that they finance to protect borrowers from cowboy builders, says Sir Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading.

He would like societies to try to help consumers to identify reputable builders, and does not rule out the possibility of restricting loans to work carried out by builders who belong to trade associations or those who give guarantees on their work.

Sir Gordon said any effect on competition must be balanced by safeguards for the consumer.

A "beat-the-cowboys" working party set up by the former Housing Minister John Patten is due to report soon.

● This year's Budget swept away tax relief on home improvements. Those who already have tax relief will not lose it. But if you remortgage you will lose tax relief on any part of the loan that relates to home improvements. Thus if you had an original mortgage of £25,000 and later added £5,000 to it for home improvements, you would now be able to claim the full £30,000 tax relief. If, however, you moved, the mortgage this would be cut down to relief on the original £25,000.

VG

Another black day for one investor

A unit trust holder has lost his case for damages against a unit trust group that refused to deal with him on a firm price on Black Monday.

Warwick Bartlett, a bookmaker in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, lost his case this week against N.M. Schroder for losses he suffered when he eventually sold his unit trusts after the crash.

The ruling against him will come as a disappointment to the small investors who thought he might set a precedent they could follow.

Like thousands of unit trust investors, Mr Bartlett was caught out when unit trust companies refused to deal while share prices were falling rapidly and markets were in chaos on October 19 and the days that followed. Companies found valuation difficult while prices were plummeting.

Ironically, Mr Bartlett took Schroder to court after it refused to sell his shares in a Schroder gold fund — Schroder was not dealing in the gold unit trust on Black Monday because it was rising so fast, unlike every other fund. But Mr Bartlett complained, by the time the company agreed to sell his £1,000 worth of units their value had dropped by 36 per cent.

Mr Bartlett issued a summons against the company for the loss of £360 — the money he lost on the shares as a result of the crash.

Unaware of small print before paying

However, Nicholas Murphy, the registrar at Portsmouth County Court, ruled in favour of the unit trust company after he was told that its trust deed explained that Schroder could refuse to sell shares in certain circumstances, which included a drop in the market value.

Mr Bartlett said he was not given a copy of the trust deed when he bought his shares, so

was not aware of the small print until after he had paid his money. He claimed he was able to get a copy of the complex document only after he agreed to pay £35 for it.

After the hearing Mr Bartlett said: "I based my case on the fact that the value of the gold fund shares fluctuates regularly and the company

knew perfectly well that we had the power to do what we did. We did what we thought was right in those circumstances."

Mr Sampson said the marketing literature made it clear that there may be times when the company cannot deal immediately. And the reason why Mr Bartlett had to pay £35 for a copy of the trust deed was "the way he conducted himself in this affair". The company would normally supply copies for no more than £1.

Mr Bartlett was offered the choice of dealing on a forward price basis in October, with the price being set after his instruction to sell. "But he thought it was a lousy idea," said Mr Sampson.

Normally investors buy and sell units at prices set before they deal, using the prices quoted in the daily newspapers as a guide. But fund managers revalue the units if prices in the portfolios move by more than a certain amount.

It can take two hours to revalue a portfolio and set a new price, so during the October 19 uproar the managers simply could not keep up.

Some switched to forward pricing, a system that all unit trust groups will be able to operate as a matter of course under new regulations coming into force in July. Tony Smith,

Forward pricing is unpopular

chief executive of the Unit Trust Association, said this would help to avoid the difficulties they encountered last year.

But he maintains that forward pricing is unpopular among investors because they do not like having to deal without knowing the price they are buying or selling at.

Mr Sampson says Schroder intends to continue with historic pricing after July.



Warwick Bartlett: little chance had no right to refuse to sell just because of the October crash.

Boost for anti-flotation fight

The Abbey National members gathering support for their opposition to the society's move to become a public limited company were claiming this week that they have been supported in their cause by the Building Societies Commission, Michael Bridgeman.

Mr Bridgeman told building societies they must set out for their members the arguments against becoming ples as well as the case for abandoning their mutual status when they ask for a vote to go ahead and convert.

Mr Bridgeman, the first Building Societies Commissioner who is responsible for overseeing the working of the Building Society legislation told delegates at the Building Societies Association conference that they would be "failing in their fiduciary duty" if they regarded gathering votes to support their desire to convert into a plc as a marketing exercise.

"The Act is clear and explicit on this," said Mr Bridgeman. "The Commission has no option but to refuse to confirm a conversion if it considers that information material to the members' decision

was not available to the generality of them when they voted."

This is a warning to the Abbey National Building Society — the only society to have declared publicly that it has definitely decided that it will seek to become a plc.

The Abbey chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, has already refused a request from the Abbey Members Against the Flotation to put their case to members in literature sent out by the society.

He told Andrew Lewis, secretary of the group, in a letter: "There is no case in my view for allowing those members who may be opposed to conversion to have their minority case written up and sent out with our own recommendations."

But now the Abbey Members Against Flotation claims that the society will have to think again. "This gives power to our elbow," said Alexander Sandison, the group's vice-chairman.

The Abbey is to seek ask Mr Bridgeman to say exactly what is required. "I don't think Mr Bridgeman expects us to put the contrary view in our literature," said John Fry, Abbey's

general manager of group planning. "The whole thing is being discussed in a balanced way in the road shows which are taking place in the autumn. If we put out the views of one group of members, they might not agree with the views of other groups."

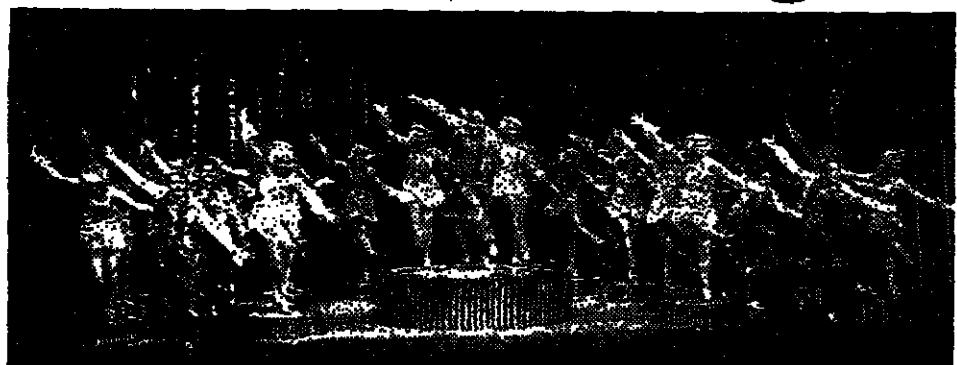
Mr Bridgeman stressed that the Commission, like the Government, was neutral over the conversion issue, but societies had to put the consequences of conversion as objectively as possible.

Building society boards should take a strategic view of how to serve members rather than looking merely at the short term, said Mr Bridgeman. He also stressed that societies that see their future as retail mortgage banks need not convert now that their powers have been widened.

The Treasury Minister Peter Lilley also warned societies not to bribe members by the offer of "a quick buck" to vote for conversion. He said building society members should not be unfairly induced to support a society's desire to become a plc.

Abbey Members Against the Flotation, 22 Birkbeck Road, London W5 4FS

Good scene for angels



Theatre producers feared they would be ensnared by the Financial Services Act, but have wriggled free. The cast of *42nd Street*, above, celebrate — Simon Rose dramatizes it all below

A PLAY, ANGELS

DELIGHT, by Simon Rose

Scene: The office of a budding theatrical producer.

Mickey: I've got a great idea, Judy. Let's put on a rip-roaring show for the folks.

Judy: Wonderful idea, Mickey. But where do we get the money from?

Mickey: Why, from our "angels" — of course, investors who'll put money into the show in return for part of the profits, if there are any.

Judy: Isn't theatrical investment very risky?

Mickey: Sure it is, but they like the excitement and the thrills. They don't do it for the money. Barely a quarter of productions make money for the angels.

The door is thrown open, and a Regulator enters.

Regulator (to sounds of hissing from the audience): Oh, no you don't. You aren't members of a regulatory body. Haven't you heard of the Financial Services Act?

Mickey: How does the Act

affect poor theatre producers like us?

Regulator: All collective investment schemes, whether a unit trust or (menacingly) angels putting money in the theatre, are covered. You have to join IMRO, so you'll need to sign an enormous number of papers, pay membership costs, let us look at your books every so often, hire very expensive lawyers and accountants, have a compliance officer and generally suffer a good deal of aggravation (rubs his hands).

Judy: But that's terrible. Most producers won't be able to cope with all that. It could make the difference between success and failure.

The door is thrown open.

Lawyer (hisses from the audience): It's okay, kids. I've found a way round it. A last-minute amendment to the Act says that debentures aren't really collective investments after all, and it seems that angel agreements are really

limited recourse debentures.

So, as long as you are a limited company, your problems are over. You don't need to be authorized persons any more.

You can withdraw your application from IMRO — 23 of the 110 producers have already done so, and most of the others are expected to follow.

Judy: You mean it was all a dream? We can go back to doing things the way we did before?

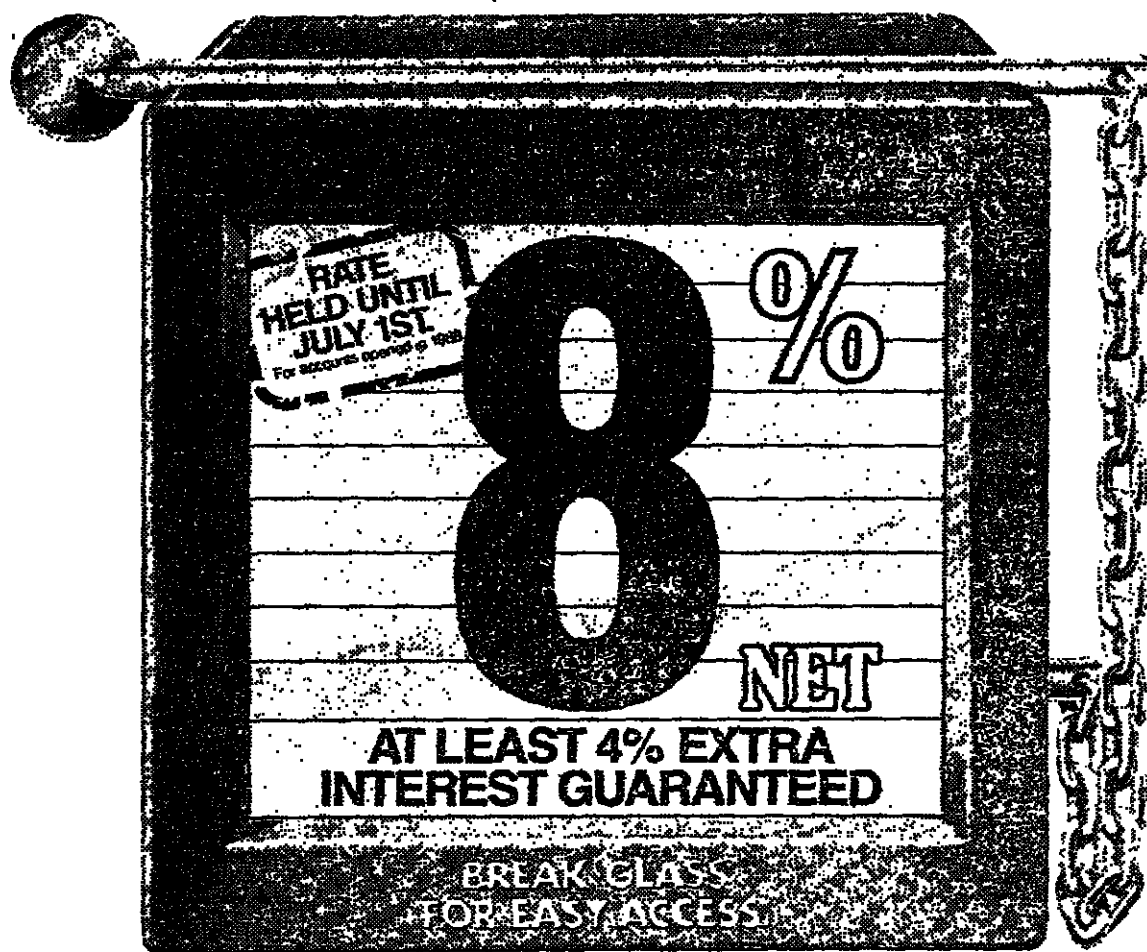
Lawyer: Well, except for the fact that you can't cold-call possible investors any more, even if they're your best friend, and except for the fact that I will have to vet all letters asking for money for productions and make sure you don't transgress any one of a hundred rules and generally charge you a lot of money... yes.

Judy: No wonder you're so happy. You win both ways.

Mickey: If that's a happy ending, give me real life any time.

Curtain.

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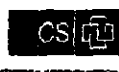
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*Source: Money Management, Feb. 1987 & Feb. 1988.



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FAMILY MONEY

Dealing in the darlings

Income unit trusts are fast becoming the darlings of the unit trust market, so the latest survey by Premier Unit Trust Brokers sorting them into the *crème de la crème* and other less attractive shades has a punchier story to tell this year than usual.

There are two reasons for the increased appeal of trusts that make the production of income, rather than capital growth, a priority. First, the income adds value while markets are falling, so the prices of income unit trusts have held up well since the crash.

Secondly, the Budget reformed Capital Gains Tax, making the rate equal to an individual's rate for income tax. At the same time, income tax rates have come down. The effect has been to reduce

the disincentive to invest for income.

Premier measures the performance of income trusts by two criteria, capital growth compared with the FT All-Share Index, and dividend growth compared with inflation. It divides the trusts into four groups. The "white" list incorporates all those trusts that have outperformed both the FT All-Share in the three years to May and the Retail Price Index in the three years to the beginning of January.

From this Premier draws up a "cream" list, of those whose performance in both capital growth and dividend growth is within the top half of the white list. There are 18 trusts on this list and five of these, the *crème de la crème*, have been in the white list for at least four of the past five years and in the top half of the white list last year (see table).

A grey list consists of those that have outperformed on either capital growth or dividend growth but not both and last comes the black list of trusts that have not kept up with either.

Fortunately, for investors the white list is larger than the black and grey combined and there are only four on the black list. But even so, Premier points out: "The gap

between good and bad fund management remains wide."

It says: "Over the last three years, and notwithstanding October's difficulties, our top five funds averaged 105 per cent capital growth and 75 per cent growth in dividend payments. The bottom five funds averaged 40 per cent capital growth and 6 per cent growth in dividends."

With inflation falling steadily in the past few years, there is plenty of scope to improve dividend performance relative to the RPI. But, says Premier, one in 10 income funds underperformed inflation in the past three years and two out of 10 failed to beat the share market generally. "Really, one must ask, what's so difficult in raising dividends 13 per cent in three years?" it says.

'Smaller companies have done well'

The most miserable performance has been turned in by Abtrust High Income, previously Baltic High Income, with a 41 per cent growth in capital value against the FT All-Share increase of 62 per cent and a 14 per cent reduction in dividends against a 13 per cent rise in inflation, making a real loss in income of 27 per cent.

This trust has been hit by a

combination of lacklustre management, and upheavals in ownership. Baltic was taken over at the end of last year by Abtrust, the unit trust operations of Aberdeen Fund Managers, a group that emerged independent from the reorganization of Scottish Unit Managers.

Peter Jefferys, joint managing director of Abtrust, says: "Since we moved in the trusts have started to perform much better."

MIM Britannia Extra Income has also been affected by management changes after the take-over of MIM, formerly Montague Investment Management, by Britannia Arrow two years ago. There is a new management team in charge, which has reduced the proportion of the fund invested in preference shares. The fixed dividends on preference shares preclude dividend growth and the narrow market in them inhibits capital growth.

Keith Crowley, the managing director, points out that two MIM Britannia trusts are on Premier's white list this year.

Baring Fund Managers says the poor income performance for its Growth & Income trust reflects a lower than usual dividend for April 1987, the result of having to assimilate low yielding stock from an

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

THE TOP-OF-THE-CREAM LIST (both capital growth and dividend growth better than the FT AS Index/Inflation)

	Capital growth 3 yrs to May 1, '88 (FT AS +42%)	Dividend growth 3 yrs to Jan 1, '88 (RPI +13%)	Dividend yield May 1, '88
M&G Midland	120	61 (UK general)	3.91
Franklin's Extra Inc	112	57	4.50
Bartmore Income	109	97	4.02
Stewart Navy British	97	112 (UK general)	4.47
Profitic High Inc	88	54	4.02

Funds were in the top half of the white list last year and on at least four of the last five white lists

THE BLACK LIST (neither capital or dividend growth better than the FT AS Index/Inflation)

	Capital growth & Income	Dividend growth & Income	Dividend yield
Baring Growth & Income	55	9 (UK general)	2.20
Key Higher Income	55	-22	5.85
MIM Britannia Extra Inc	50	-4 (mixed inc) (87 div cut)	6.41
Abtrust High Income (ex Baltic)	41	-14	5.48

Source: Premier Unit Trust Brokers. Figures calculated from statistics published in The Unit Trust Year Book

investment trust which was wound up. Dividend growth for the three years to the end of April this year is more than 30 per cent.

So what makes a good income fund? For long-term success, an ability to identify companies likely to produce a steady increase in dividends is a key, according to the successful fund managers.

M&G's top-performing M&G Midland has a bias towards smaller Midlands-based companies, proving that shares in smaller companies need not be the wonder buys of a bull market. The fund manager James Shillingford explains: "Some of the smaller Midlands companies have done enormously well recently as the UK has come out of recession."

James Ferguson, of Stewart Ivory, says: "We try to invest in companies with the potential for growing returns rather than a high starting yield."

Premier also believes trusts with a high yield now will not necessarily produce a steady increase in dividend income. People retiring now and concerned about rising inflation should think twice about choosing a high-yielding trust unless they want a "short-term income sweetener".

● Kleinwort Barrington is launching an income portfolio based on its range of four high income trusts. Investors can choose between two plans, the Equity Plan investing mainly in equities, or the Equity/Gilt Plan, which puts 60 per cent into the Gilt Yield trust.

Maria Scott

Re-sale rules for the timeshare developers

The Timeshare Developers' Association is to force all its members to set up a re-sale scheme for anyone who has owned a timeshare for more than five years.

There seems to be no cohesive re-sale strategy among the association's members. Naturally, until a scheme is sold out, the developer has little interest in handling any re-sales.

Unfortunately, this is not made clear to potential buyers who often believe they are investing in property rather than in long-term holidays. Moreover, the sales techniques, even of association members, are all intended to impress and cajole the relaxed holidaymaker.

One large house-builder, strong in timesharing, has young people walking around restaurants along the Costa del Sol handing out carnations

the problem, soon announced a new re-sale structure — 15 per cent commission and 11 per cent fixed legal fees — so the Johnsons thought their problems were over.

Three months later the Johnsons still have not sold their timeshare. Wimpey said they had to give power of attorney to one of its salesmen in Tenerife. This worried Mr Johnson, who knew the turnover rate among young salesmen anywhere was high.

The lawyer Wimpey recommended in London required a £100 fee to organize power of attorney but Mr Johnson found a Manchester firm that agreed to do the same work for £35.

Wimpey Leisure's managing director, George Paine, says he would be happy to know of lawyers who charge less but that the company does not consider re-sales as a priority at present.

The Johnsons at last have their documents enabling them to grant power of attorney to Wimpey. However, if this has to be done by every individual owning Wimpey timeshare in Tenerife or Lanzarote — where an *escritura* is issued for every week bought — the owner's incentive to sell is obviously very low.

It will be a welcome development if the Johnsons' "week" at Las Rosas is soon put on Wimpey's re-sale list and sold but, as this story shows, buying from an eager, well organized sales team direct from the developer is one thing, but selling is quite another.

After a decade of timeshare sales in the UK, at least

Grumbles from the would-be vendors

with a smile — attached to the flower is a "invitation" to a timeshare resort. Another developer greets holidaymakers at Faro airport on the Algarve with an invitation to the scheme and offering a "free" meal.

But there are grumbles by would-be vendors when they discover that companies, quick enough to sell them "new" weeks, are reluctant to act as agents for re-sale — and when they do they charge a hefty commission plus legal fees for the privilege.

The chairman of the association, Frank Chapman, of Barratt Multi-Ownership, says: "With the industry now attracting more than 2,500 new British families each month, we have identified a healthy market for re-sale. We have deliberately chosen a five-year minimum period since it is in line with the industry message that timeshare is a long-term investment in holidays rather than a quick route to financial gain."

For the moment this is as far as the association has got but really it should tackle the re-sale question seriously and soon. There is no legal reason why any developer should enter the re-sale market.

But when they sell in the first place they make much of the fact that many owners who buy early into some developments have sold at double the original purchase price. So the British public somehow expects this re-sale service, which in time could prove a valuable source of income to reputable developers.

In February Family Money featured a couple, Philip and Mary Johnson, from Cheshire, who had experienced difficulties in trying to sell an unwanted week on Wimpey's Las Rosas development on Tenerife.

Their main stumbling block was that Wimpey's legal fees worked out at more than 50 per cent of the value of their week — if they could sell it.

Wimpey, after examining



Philip Johnson: no sale yet

160,000 weeks have been sold to British owners, both in the UK and abroad. A recent survey shows that roughly 10 per cent of all owners are considering selling, not necessarily because they are displeased but because their circumstances have changed. They may wish to trade up or move from one season to another. They may even need the cash.

The recent survey by the British Tourist Authority shows that 86 per cent of timeshare owners are in fact satisfied with the holiday concept.

Diana Wildman

Magnum Account

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FAMILY MONEY

Ill health, in comfort

Which would you say was worse: to be earning a good salary, then fall ill or have an accident and stop working for months or years and live on next to nothing; or insure against this eventuality, with the possibility of having trouble proving your claim and getting the insurance company to pay up?

Take, first, those who have not taken out permanent health insurance (PHI), which should more logically be called permanent ill-health insurance.

A surprisingly large number of people do not bother, yet at the moment more than half a million people between 20 and 65 have been off sick for more than six months.

Stuart Chambers, of NEL Britannia, the biggest underwriters of PHI in Britain, says: "The self-employed are more worried, but employed people tend to think the state will look after them if they are sick. Only when they are doing the discovery the state does not provide adequate benefits. Most people don't know exactly what state benefits are."

Does it matter? Peter Redpath, of Allied Dunbar, which launched its Income

Some employers are taking out group PHI

Protection Plan two years ago, says the public ought to be more aware than they are.

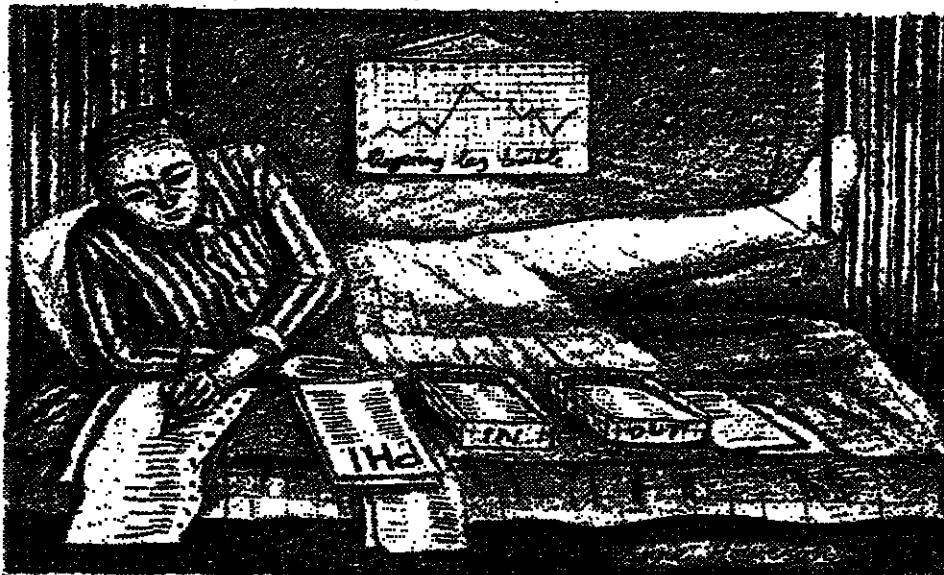
"Most certainly they would be if they saw the claimants on our books and the contrast between their financial situation and those on state benefits," said Mr Redpath.

Some PHI contracts will keep premiums level for the life of the policy, while others will increase the premiums and the cover by regular amounts or in line with price rises. Once you are on the books with a PHI policy, you cannot be refused cover because of recurrent claims — hence the permanent in PHI.

Some employers are realizing the benefits of PHI and a lot now take out a group PHI, which gives benefits for all their employees.

But not all insurance companies are over-thrilled at this. Peter Becker, underwriting manager for Sun Alliance, says that because the current economic trend means people cannot realistically find employment, their period of disability is extended.

"When there's no work to go to," he says, "even a bad back will linger instead of getting better and employers want to off-load this on to



insurance companies. It's very difficult to differentiate as to whether they are sick or not. After all, a lot of businesses can be run effectively from a person's bed."

This pinpoints the second question about health insurance: Will the companies pay up or is their attitude towards claimants one of mistrust? Take the following horror story, still uncompleted.

The man concerned took out a personal accident insurance with a leading insurance company. In November 1986 he injured his spine and neck in a car accident. He was in hospital for about three months and had two minor operations and one major one.

His employer retired him on medical grounds and the DHSS granted him mobility allowance and invalidity benefit.

"I am totally incapable of following any form of gainful employment," he says. "I

wrote to the insurers and so far they have been sending me to see one medical consultant after another. The DHSS doctors have medically certified me as incapable of work, my previous employer's occupational health physician has also done the same, and so has my GP."

"Now I am fighting an uphill struggle to get insurance compensation for permanent total disablement from gainful employment."

How exasperating are most insurance companies? Their standard procedure is to get a general practitioner's report on the injury and, if the case is borderline, pay for the claimant to go to a medical practitioner of the company's choice.

They are on the watch for malingers, but say it simply wouldn't be good business if they kept refusing to settle.

"We may continue to check with the doctor once a month

or quarter," says Mr Redpath, "but if it's a horrendous back injury, there's no point."

NEL Britannia, which deals with thousands of claims, has a unique way of dealing with them. It uses trained disability counsellors. The idea originated when the company sent a team into an area with a particularly high number of claims.

"What we found," says Stuart Chambers, "was that many claimants were psychologically very much worse than we appreciated from the claims report. It was tied up to the fact that GPs are too busy to counsel people properly and patients who don't know what's wrong worry and become worse. And a lot of people had withdrawn and were prepared to be permanent claimants."

"We discovered that people were not being properly advised and did not know what the policy did for them and

what benefits and services were available.

"Our counsellors advise them and help them come to terms with what is wrong with them. They're not there to refute the claims — that is only done by our claims department. The counsellors also deal with employers on group schemes. Often a firm doesn't want the employee back, but there is often a different job they can do."

Aids has had no impact on rates

Most companies shun obvious bad risks. It's tough if you are a professional footballer, a publican or a pop musician. In turn, clients should try before they buy. Some schemes, for instance, work with a profits element.

Rates also vary according to age, and white- or blue-collar job — manual workers run an increased risk of injury — and, crucially, the length of payment deferment. Payment after only eight weeks of being off sick could be prohibitively costly. Most policies are for 13-26 weeks' deferment.

Aids has not had an impact on PHI rates as most people who get the full-blown disease die pretty quickly. Opinion is divided over whether the rates will in time reflect increased illness among the young because of Aids.

If you are a woman, all insurance companies penalize you. Most charge half as much again as for men, on the grounds, says Mr Becker, that "in our experience women are shown to be off work more than men". More pragmatically, Mr Redpath says: "Women cope with illness better than men. Men in some cases will die. The woman will survive and is often a claimant."

A dentist, Jennifer Pinder, challenged this practice in the courts under the Sex Discrimination legislation in 1986 and lost her case. Only a minority of companies will cover housewives so that they can claim if they are unable to carry out their normal household duties.

For those of us who want to survive gracefully, and not scratch along on the minimum of benefits, the moral is clear. Get PHI. But watch the small print.

Joy Melville

Prospective members of that well-heeled society — Lloyd's of London — have until June 30 to apply to start writing insurance business from the start of next year.

Those considering becoming a "name" should think carefully before signing up, as recent tax changes and a cyclical downturn in the insurance market have reduced the attractions of membership.

Lloyd's has never been a place for widows and orphans, nor for anyone who is risk-averse. Lloyd's does not like losing money. Unlimited liability is still the cornerstone of membership, and when business is bad, names can be called on to write substantial cheques to Lloyd's to fund heavy claims.

Only the genuinely wealthy should apply. Although the membership requirement is £100,000 in free capital, which should exclude the value of the first home, most advisers consider this threshold too low. Robson Rhodes, the accountant, would not recommend Lloyd's to anyone with less than £250,000 in free capital.

Lloyd's is reviewing the wealth and the deposit requirements with a view to raising both. At present names showing the minimum £100,000 wealth can write £250,000 worth of insurance business before reinsurance and must deposit £50,000 with Lloyd's.

The assets should also be fairly liquid, as demands for cash do occur from time to time and selling family heirlooms to meet such demands would not be a happy state of affairs for most people.

The main financial advantages of membership have always been the ability to make money work twice and the generous tax breaks available for higher-rate taxpayers.

The ability to make money work twice still holds. The deposit of 20 per cent of the business written can be in the form of a bank guarantee, leaving the assets on which it is based to be used by the name. If the deposit is in the form of gilt-edged stock or cash, the name continues to receive dividends and interest even though the same assets are being used as the basis of underwriting.

The tax breaks have been severely diminished by changes introduced in this year's Budget. Lloyd's names used to be able to offset pure underwriting losses against income tax, meaning a 60 per cent taxpayer would never have to pay more than 40 per cent of his losses.

The tax relief was allowable

June is deadline to make a name

regardless of whether investment income wiped out the underwriting loss to produce an overall profit.

Income tax has now fallen to a top rate of 40 per cent, thus reducing the amount of relief available. The Budget also proposed, in special measures relating to Lloyd's, that underwriting profit and investment income should be lumped together and taxed as trading profits.

Relief will therefore no longer be allowable on pure underwriting losses, but only on net losses after investment income is taken into account.

The measures will have a significant and adverse impact on new names. New names who made underwriting losses in their first year of membership used to be able to offset the loss against their total income of previous years and

Anyone dithering about joining Lloyd's from next year might do better by putting off the question for another year. They will then have more time to consider the vital question of whom to choose as agent. Names can choose either an independent members' agent, or one connected with a managing agent or Lloyd's broker. The members' agent is responsible for placing names on syndicates and its ability to pick profitable syndicates and obtain capacity on them for its names is fundamental to the name's success.

There is no way of tracking the record of members' agents. Word of mouth, and possibly some unofficial advice from the Association of Lloyd's Members, are the best methods of finding out.

A managing agent's record can be judged from the profitability or otherwise of the syndicates it manages. League tables are produced by the association and by Chat-set, a company that specializes in analysing Lloyd's syndicate results.

Names should have a good look at past results before blithely joining syndicates and should have a long chat with a financial adviser and tax planner before joining Lloyd's.

Alison Eadie

SELECTION OF PHI SCHEMES

Annual premium to provide £100 a week (£433.30 a month), exclusive of policy fee, inclusive of waiver of premium — white-collar male, policy to run to age 60, 26-week delay

	Age 30 at entry		Age 40		Age 50		
	Premium	Estimated maturity value	Premium	Estimated maturity value	Premium	Estimated maturity value	Leading for women
Allied Dunbar	27.93	988	45.76	514	87.36	—	Varies
Canada Life	63.80	—	85.73	—	129.58	—	50%
Clerical Medical	52.50	—	73.69	—	126.53	—	50%
General Accident	44.50	—	62.40	—	124.80	—	50%
National Employers'	46.80	—	67.60	—	119.80	—	50%
Norwich Union	58.58	—	72.58	—	118.30	—	25%
Sun Alliance	43.08	—	66.88	—	118.44	—	50%
Time Assurance	50.83	—	69.76	—	114.51	—	50%

Source: Planned Savings

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BGF BALANCED GROWTH FUND

Investment objectives: to maximise total return, both income and capital, through an actively managed portfolio investing in special situations and growth companies regardless of size.

INITIAL INVESTMENT AT LAUNCH 1-3-1984	VALUE 1-3-1985	VALUE 1-3-1986	VALUE 1-3-1987	VALUE 1-3-1988	VALUE 9-5-1988
£1,000 AT £1 PER UNIT	£1,853	£3,154	£5,282	£5,808	£5,835

These figures are on an offer to bid basis. Source: Micropal.

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HYF HIGHER YIELD FUND

Investment objectives: to produce a higher yield than is generally attainable from an equity based unit trust by a combination of fixed interest convertibles and equities and to pay distributions on a quarterly basis.

Launch date: 31-12-1986.

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FS AMERICAN GROWTH FUND AGF

Investment objective: to achieve above average growth by taking advantage of the opportunities of well-managed growth companies in the North American market.

Launch date: 1-4-1987.

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Whether your investment objective is to provide income or growth, in the UK or overseas, FS unit trusts are worth a second look.

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While it is true that short-term investment success has been known, we would recommend that unit trusts be viewed as a long-term investment.

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NatWest Access	23.1%	23.1%
Midland Access	23.1%	23.1%
Royal Bank of Scotland Access	23.1%	23.1%
Lloyds Access	23.8%	23.8%

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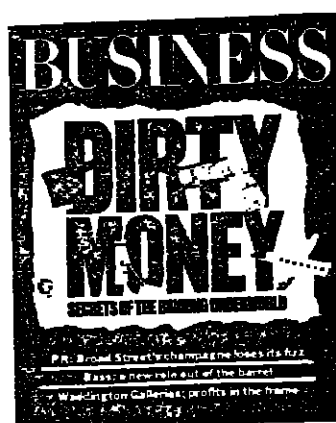
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Q. WHY IS A BOMBAY BUS TICKET WORTH \$10,000?

A. HAWALA

Among the world's banking networks is one so secret it has no address, no records, no controls. But your corner shop may be part of it. This month, BUSINESS investigates how Hawala, India's money laundry, is now being hijacked by international crime. Also, why a former Co-op shelf-filler is soup-ing up US supermarkets, how Bass is fermenting a leisure empire, timely advice on pension plans, the discreet charm of the Costa del Sol and the problems facing ageing studs.

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Portfolio —PLUS NEW— Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 29).

Share	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Week
1	+6	+5	+6	+4			
2	+3	+5	+4	+4	+7		
3	+7	+3	+5	+2	+3		
4	+5	+4	+7	+5	+2		
5	+8	+4	+8	+6	+3		
6	+4	+3	+8	+5	+1		
7	+4	+5	+8	+5	+6		
8	+6	+4	+5	+2	+3		
9	+4	+5	+5	+5	+6		
10	+7	+3	+7	+5	+5		
11	+5	+3	+6	+2	+4		
12	+6	+3	+6	+5	+3		
13	+5	+3	+6	+4	+3		
14	+5	+5	+6	+3	+2		
15	+4	+5	+4	+4	+5		
16	+4	+5	+7	+3	+1		
17	+6	+6	+6	+6	+4		
18	+7	+5	+5	+2	+2		
19	+6	+5	+5	+2	+2		
20	+5	+5	+4	+4	+6		
21	+8	+6	+6	+5	+5		
22	+6	+4	+8	+3	+3		
23	+3	+5	+4	+4	+5		
24	+7	+5	+7	+4	+5		
25	+6	+4	+7	+4	+2		
26	+6	+3	+5	+3	+4		
27	+8	+4	+7	+5	+4		
28	+5	+5	+5	+4	+5		
29	+6	+3	+6	+2	+4		
30	+5	+5	+7	+4	+2		
31	+3	+5	+3	+4	+7		
32	+7	+4	+4	+2	+3		
33	+8	+4	+7	+5	+3		
34	+7	+5	+5	+5	+4		
35	+3	+7	+3	+4	+6		
36	+5	+3	+4	+2	+2		
37	+4	+5	+6	+4	+2		
38	+4	+6	+3	+4	+6		
39	+6	+5	+5	+4	+3		
40	+4	+3	+6	+4	+2		
41	+5	+6	+5	+5	+4		
42	+4	+7	+3	+4	+5		
43	+6	+3	+6	+4	+1		
44	+5	+2	+4	+3	+2		

Age Concern has recently written to Edwina Currie, the Junior Health Minister, complaining that elderly people use their homes to raise money for private health care is misguided.

The charity points out that it is far more difficult than it seems for elderly people to raise capital on their homes. Age Concern has put its finger on an issue that is likely to run and run unless the range of options open to "house-rich, cash-poor" elderly homeowners is opened up.

John Butterfill, Tory MP for Bournemouth West, has proposed an amendment to the Finance Bill that would alter the rules on tax relief for home income plans, probably the most popular method available for elderly people to cash in on the value of their homes.

More than 100 MPs, including 13 Tory members of the standing committee considering the Bill, are supporting Mr. Butterfill's proposal, which has also mustered sympathy from building societies, insurance companies and charities for the elderly.

"It would be a very good thing if we could get the Butterfill amendment in," says Cecil Hinton, managing director of Hinton & Wild (Home Plans), a broker that specializes in home income plans.

Under a home income plan, a mortgage is used to buy an annual income, in the form of an annuity, for life. The money drawn from this is used to repay interest on the loan as well as providing extra income. The original loan is repaid on the death of the home-owner, or when he or she sells.

The problem with the plans at present is that home-owners receive a relatively small amount of income and still have to pay interest—and tax, if as a result their income is

pushed into the tax bracket.

The annuities used for the schemes cannot provide a realistic income for younger people, so the starting age for taking a home income plan is usually 69 or 70 for single people and a combine aged of 145 to 150 for a couple.

A 75-year-old man taking out a £30,000 loan on a £50,000 property would get an annual income of £2,301, just under £192 a month after interest payments and basic-rate tax, through the scheme operated by Allied Dunbar. The income would be slightly lower, at £2,024 a year, if he chose the "capital protection" version which limits the amount of original capital that must be repaid if the borrower dies only a short time after taking out the plan.

The older the borrower is, the larger the annuity. An 80-year-old man taking out the Allied Dunbar plan would get £3,388 a year, £282 a month.

Mr. Butterfill is proposing that people borrowing through the schemes should be allowed to defer their interest payments so that they are paid out of the proceeds of a sale when the borrower dies.

At the same time, though, they would retain their right to tax relief on the interest. The result would be a big increase in the net income available, in some cases to twice the amounts available now. This should open the scheme to younger people.

Despite the constraints on the home income plans, they have proved a lifeline for many.

When Bill Searle, of Purley, Surrey, gave up his part-time retirement job two years ago his income was reduced to a private pension, of £48 a quarter, and the basic state pension.

Mr. Searle, who is 81, describes the £181 a month he gets from his home income plan with Carlyle Life Insur-



Harold Poore at home: "No money worries now," he says since as a "life-saver". He spends his extra money on basic living expenses but says he is not short of money.

Harold Poore, of Ilford, Essex, who is 79, is a veteran of home income plans. He took out his first loan in 1979 and has topped it up since to £45,000. The plan has enabled him to stay in the house he bought in 1939, to redecorate and maintain it and to run a car. "I have no money worries," he declares.

The options for younger people wanting to raise money from their homes are almost non-existent. Although it may be possible for them to raise loans on their homes, to draw capital, the amount needed to repay this will almost certainly be larger than the income they can get from it.

A responsible lender is unlikely to advance money to elderly people for this purpose unless they already have substantial income.

And it must be remembered that although a mortgage taken out to buy an annuity will qualify for tax relief, one taken out for any other form of investment will not.

"If someone raises a loan of £20,000 at current rates of near 10 per cent, the interest will be £2,000 a year. If you are too young for an annuity and use a capital plan to provide income, the yields on these are currently 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent. So you cannot cover yourself," explains John Bridel, of financial advisers Towry Law.

There are schemes that enable elderly people to raise a lump sum through selling their home, or a share of it, while retaining the right to live there. This removes the need

to pay interest on a loan but the elderly person signs away all or part of the ownership of the home.

One company, Home & Capital, has run one such scheme for 10 years and more than 1,000 people have used its service. But the minimum age is 65 and the home-owners are asked to sell their properties at a discount of 40 to 50 per cent of market value.

A variation on the same theme is for elderly people to sell as part of a package that will also buy them an annuity. Again though, they may have to sell at a discount and will not benefit from increases in the price of their property.

One company in this field, Stalwart Assurance, offers an income plan that is available to single people as young as 60 or couples with a minimum combined age of 130.

Stalwart has tried to improve on the structure of this type of scheme by offering an annuity that rises in line with property values. To finance this the company has set up its own property investment fund with the properties it is buying in from clients who die or vacate their homes.

At present the annuities are rising at 12 per cent a year, not the full rise in property values in all parts of the country but a fair average, Stalwart believes.

Joan Briggs, who lives in a pleasant part of south London, took out a home income plan rather than moving to a smaller property. She sums up the feelings of many elderly people about uprooting themselves: "I would have had to move to a place where I am not known. I just didn't think that I had the energy."

Maria Scott



Bill Searle: "It's a life-saver"



Joan Briggs: preferred to stay

BRIEFING

S&P enters cutting war

Save & Prosper turned up the heat on the big credit card companies this week by cutting the rate on its Classic Visa card from 1.35 to 1.25 per cent a month. The APR falls from 17.4 to 16. This follows the launch last week of Chase Manhattan's Visa card with an APR of 16.9, undercutting the credit cards of the big clearing banks, which charge 23.1 per cent or more.

S&P's is not a mass market card, however, as the lending criteria are tighter than for other cards. The borrower must be a home-owner and have a regular income and a good credit record.

Charity interest

Girobank is launching four high-interest savings accounts, including one donating money to charity on the investor's behalf. The Girobank High Interest Charity Account has four rates of interest, up to 5.35 per cent, depending on the amount invested.

But an extra one percentage point is credited and passed on to a charity, which the investor can choose from a list of seven provided. These are Age Concern, Marie Curie Cancer Care, National Children's Home, Oxfam, Save the Children Fund, Spastics Society and UNICEF UK. Girobank expects to hand over £1 million to the charities in the first year.

The bank is also launching a high-interest cheque account, a high-interest monthly savings account, and a high-interest notice account.

Simpler VAT

Changes are being introduced to the VAT payment system to make it simpler for businesses with a turnover of up to £250,000. These businesses will get the option to make one return every

year instead of the four required at present. They will also be able to pay their VAT in nine equal monthly instalments by direct debit with a tenth balancing payment at the end of the year.

Mark Fennell, senior manager in the tax consultancy department of accountant Neville Russell, has mixed feelings about the option. He believes the present system imposes discipline on small businesses because they have to file returns every quarter. In addition, cash flow might suffer through being tied to regular monthly instalments of a set amount. The conventional system allows for two late payments before a penalty is charged, so there is more leeway to ease the strain on cash flow.

However, the fixed payments might prove an advantage for a company whose turnover takes off part-way through a year.

Premiums up

Legal & General has joined the list of life insurance companies putting up premiums in response to likely increases in claims for AIDS deaths. The cost of term assurance policies for men and women is rising by up to 200 per cent although the largest rises apply to younger people. A male aged 29, taking out a £100,000 level-term assurance for 10 years, will now pay £22 a month, compared with £9.

Free Filofax

Barclays is offering new student customers a free Filofax and £10 if they open an account with grant cheques this autumn. Students applying for a Barclaycard will receive a free personal stereo. Since Barclays severed links with South Africa its student business has risen from 15 to 23 per cent of the market. Barclays also offers a free Filofax to school-leavers. Lloyds is giving a personal organizer to student applicants for its Access credit card.

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*Source: Money Management **Source: ABI



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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 750 million to 850 million. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 900 million by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 950 million by the year 2020. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1 billion by the year 2025. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.1 billion by the year 2030. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.2 billion by the year 2035. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.3 billion by the year 2040. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.4 billion by the year 2045. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.5 billion by the year 2050. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by the year 2055. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.7 billion by the year 2060. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.8 billion by the year 2065. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.9 billion by the year 2070. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2 billion by the year 2075. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.1 billion by the year 2080. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.2 billion by the year 2085. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.3 billion by the year 2090. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.4 billion by the year 2095. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.5 billion by the year 2100.

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مكتبة

Persian Emperor will relish trip

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Persian Emperor is taken to win the Tote Dual Forehand Handicap at Haydock today in the capable hands of his trainer, Reg Holliday, who is good value for his 5lb allowance. With 14 other three-year-olds also standing their ground there has not been a more open race all season.

My reason for selecting Persian Emperor stems from watching him finish third behind Iran Soam and Rag In Hand over only one furlong at York. On that occasion he appeared to be crying out for a further half mile and he did not get into the race proper until it was virtually all over.

When you analyse his pedigree - he is by Persepolis out of a mare by Blushing Groom - that is hardly surprising, so I expect Persian Emperor to be

in his element now that he is tackling a mile for the first time.

It is pertinent to add that wherever he finishes again should not be far away. On their York running Iran has 1½ lengths and 2½ to find, although at York he was hampered most noticeably when there was a fair bit of bumping and barging a furlong out.

Interestingly, Iran had won over a mile at Brighton before going to York, so he too will appreciate today's longer distance, while Festival Mood, My Lamb and Quintan Terry also hold good prospects in a competitive race.

The programme should begin with Royal Fox winning the latest in the Skol Sprint Classic Series. I liked the way that he shaped at York when he was runner-up to Ever Sharp in a similar race.

Blues Lad and Peace



Reg Holliday's Persian Emperor is fancied

Girl, who finished first and second at Newbury 15 days ago, can again dominate the closing stages of the Sandy Lane Stakes although I expect a better performance from Young Hal now that he is reverting to sprinting after failing to set out seven furlongs at Newmarket and York.

While Pat Eddery certainly

has a chance of winning the Lynn Stakes on Turgot I feel that his best ride today will be on Lovestime, who is named to win the EBF Skelmardale Maiden Stakes. But for starting slowly at Bath first time out the Peter Walwyn-trained two-year-old would not still be a maiden.

Lightweight Royal Reform, with Willie Carson in the saddle, can capture the John Davies Handicap now meeting Ballydowry on 7th better terms than when they clashed last at Edinburgh, where there was only a short head between them.

Twelve months ago the Zealand Maiden Stakes at Doncaster was divided and the two divisions were won by two-year-olds trained by Michael Stoute and Henry Cecil.

The same race has been split again and the same two trainers could easily have the answer once more, Stoute

with Dancing Descent in the first division, Cecil with High Estate in the second.

My best information concerns High Estate, who is reputedly on course for a crack at the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot having shown so much promise already on Newmarket Heath when galloped with the stable's 10-length Nottingham winner Green Play.

Stoute and jockey Walter Swinburn can also capture the Rifle Butts Graduation stakes with the easy Chester winner Lazax at the expense of the Calf hope Catawba.

I enjoyed the evening meeting I like the look of Pettifin in the EBF City Friends of Action Maiden Fillies' Stakes.

Blinkered first time

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A defender is forced to go on the defensive as Sail America comes under fire from countrymen

Taking the wind out of American sails

Barry Pickthall concludes his two-part investigation into why the America's Cup is no longer simply a battle for yachting supremacy

The idea of the United States racing a multihull against New Zealand's monohull for the America's Cup is unopposed and un-American, Peter Jansson, editor of the American magazine, *Motorboating and Sailing*, says. "It's like agreeing to a duel with pistols then turning up with a machine gun," he suggests. Jansson is one of a growing number of prominent yachtsmen in the US to take up cudgels against the San Diego Yacht Club over its determination to despatch New Zealand's monohull challenge by throwing sportsmanship to the wind and fielding a faster multihull.

Feelings are running high within the club and Gerry Driscoll, the veteran America's Cup skipper who chairs the Californian Cup committee, has even gone so far as to publicly air his discontent: "Would I like to see a monohull match? You bet. We never race multihulls against monohulls here." The controversy now being fought out in the New York Supreme Court raises the question of who controls the destiny of the Cup — the SDYC or the Sail America Foundation which funded Dennis Conner's victory in Australia last year?

Critics claim that the contract, between the SDYC and the foundation drawn up by the foundation's former legal adviser, Doug Alford, who is now the commodore of SDYC, gives the foundation too much control over the direction of the defence might take and the SDYC, if any, rights to any income associated with the commercial sponsorship surrounding the event, in contradiction to the Deed of Gift controlling it. "Certainly not," Alford retorted on Tuesday. "The club's board of directors has a direct say in the running of the cup". But just who holds the whip hand was seen immediately after Conner won it: the president of Sail America, Malin Burnham, offered the trophy to a sponsoring bank on loan for six months in return for \$250,000. When the SDYC board of directors objected, Burnham agreed to hand back the trophy but only after the loan was reduced to three months and the bank agreed not to ask for the return of its funds.



Burnham: returned trophy

Burnham explained: "At the time, we were \$4 million down the tube. The club had no security arrangements to hold the cup, so to have a bank that was prepared to pay to keep it made sense." However, two months after Conner's victory, relationships between the club and Sail America had sunk so low that an arbitrator was called in to settle a dispute over the make-up of a joint America's Cup committee. SDYC accused Sail America of "bad faith, unfair dealing, manipulation and attempting to fix the 1990-91 defence in its favour." This litigation, which cost the club a reputed \$50,000 in legal expenses, led to the cup committee being reformed under Driscoll's chairmanship but failed to heal the rift.

Without the club or Driscoll's immediate knowledge, Burnham simultaneously faxed Fay a letter cancelling arrangements to meet the cup committee and proposed instead to hold a separate meeting to regain its authority, the SDYC board overturned Burnham's initiative by instructing Driscoll and his committee to continue with plans to negotiate with an open agency. "Untrue," Burnham said. "We never resigned. I merely stepped back from the negotiations and allowed John Marshall, a member of Driscoll's committee, to lead the negotiations for Sail America."

According to Fay and Driscoll, the two sides came close to a compromise proposed by Marshall for an event in 1990. The talks ended with Fay promising to return with firm proposals two days later. However, within an hour of his departure, Sail America held a Press conference to announce that it planned to defend the cup in a multihull and named Long Beach or Hawaii as its choice of venue. The statement left Driscoll's negotiations dead.

According to critics, the impasse has been brought about by greed. "The Californians became so deeply engrossed in dividing the real estate deals and other money-making moves that they lost sight of the real objective — to defend the Cup," Peter de Savary, head of Britain's Blue Arrow Challenge, suggests. The commercial potential of the America's Cup was illustrated during the 1987 defence in Western Australia. There the Royal Perth Yacht Club retained control of the event but engaged the commercial expertise of the International Management Group to raise funds which resulted in a substantial profit for the club. Now, a sizeable part of any direct windfall goes to Conner and his associates. SDYC receives nothing but the expenses it incurs for hosting the event.

In the money-go-round now structured, Dennis Conner Sports Inc, a marketing company set up

CRICKET: HAMPSHIRE REACH CUP SEMI-FINALS AFTER SURVIVING A STERN TEST OF CHARACTER

Smith remains resolute in adverse conditions

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

WORCESTER (Hampshire west coast): Hampshire beat Worcestershire by three wickets. The worst pitches all too often produce the most riveting cricket. This was a dreadful pitch and a wonderful match, losing nothing of its fractured shape, fluctuating crazily and being ultimately decided by an innings of extraordinary quality and courage from Robin Smith.

Smith came in at 20 for two and was always digging Hampshire out of trouble in their pursuit of 170. More than once, it looked a hopeless task as 75 for four became 84 for six and 114 for seven, then at last, he found a partner in Cowley; the odd couple, accents from Dorset and Dorset, grudgingly survived the worst that Worcestershire could fire at them, until, with four overs left and all their wickets finished, they were a busted flush.

Smith's technique saw him through. Quite simply, he kept coming a long way forward, smothering the vagaries of bounce. Disciplining himself severely, he even scorned his favourite square cut until victory was in sight. It was a masterpiece of batting in an otherwise shellshocked Hampshire innings.

When it ended with 11 balls to spare, Smith was unbeaten with 87 and the match-winning stand with 56. Hampshire were through to their seventh Cup semi-final and, though they now have to travel to meet Essex, they can still go in hope of a first final after winning this test of character.

Mark Nicholas, the Hampshire captain, chain smoked through the closing stages before saying of Smith's innings: "I can't think you could ever see much better batting than that in such conditions".

Smith himself, inevitably the winner of the Gold Award, called it "the most satisfying innings of my life".

Of the pitch, Nicholas would only say: "It was not ideal for a one-day match." In his view it was not ideal for any sort of match, as its bounce was erratic and sometimes dangerous. It ignored the official directive from the Test and County Cricket Board to produce "even bounce throughout a match" and if something similar is provided for the West Indies today, there will be no cricket

here on Bank Holiday Monday. That Worcestershire made as many as 169 was due to a perky half-century from Weston, one of their useful fringe players and his sixth wicket stand of 69 with Rhodes. Once Jeffries returned to the Hampshire attack, the innings was brought rapidly to book but by then a few loose overs had allowed the target to seem ominously.

Worcestershire
T G Smith 87 not out
G J Lord 6 not out
G A Hick 4 not out
P A Wood 12 not out
S J O'Shaughnessy 2 not out
D A Brown 12
M J Weston 12 not out
T S J Rhodes 12 not out
P A Wood 12 not out
N V Radford 12 not out
G R Daley 12 not out
A P Ridge 12 not out
Extras (D 1, B 3, W 13, NB 1) 27
Total (54.2 overs) 169
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-14, 3-25, 4-65, 5-67, 6-78, 7-107, 8-114, 9-119, 10-124, 11-132, 12-133, 13-133, 14-133, 15-133, 16-133, 17-133, 18-133, 19-133, 20-133, 21-133, 22-133, 23-133, 24-133, 25-133, 26-133, 27-133, 28-133, 29-133, 30-133, 31-133, 32-133, 33-133, 34-133, 35-133, 36-133, 37-133, 38-133, 39-133, 40-133, 41-133, 42-133, 43-133, 44-133, 45-133, 46-133, 47-133, 48-133, 49-133, 50-133, 51-133, 52-133, 53-133, 54-133, 55-133, 56-133, 57-133, 58-133, 59-133, 60-133, 61-133, 62-133, 63-133, 64-133, 65-133, 66-133, 67-133, 68-133, 69-133, 70-133, 71-133, 72-133, 73-133, 74-133, 75-133, 76-133, 77-133, 78-133, 79-133, 80-133, 81-133, 82-133, 83-133, 84-133, 85-133, 86-133, 87-133, 88-133, 89-133, 90-133, 91-133, 92-133, 93-133, 94-133, 95-133, 96-133, 97-133, 98-133, 99-133, 100-133, 101-133, 102-133, 103-133, 104-133, 105-133, 106-133, 107-133, 108-133, 109-133, 110-133, 111-133, 112-133, 113-133, 114-133, 115-133, 116-133, 117-133, 118-133, 119-133, 120-133, 121-133, 122-133, 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England so wary of incurring wrath of UEFA

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

On the eve of the fixture against Switzerland, which has long been considered by UEFA to be the biggest test for England, the officials of the Football Association dared not consider the possibility of failure. The implications, should there be serious disturbances here today, are disconcertingly grave.

The national side would join the domestic clubs in exile and not merely for the European championship next month. England would almost certainly become global outcasts as well and be excluded from the World Cup qualifying competition which opens later in the year.

The damage to English football would be savage. The nation, once renowned for giving the game to the world, but now equally infamous for introducing hooliganism to foreign lands, would be treated like lepers and left alone to suffer the consequences of a disease that is apparently incurable.

Today's teams

ENGLAND: P. Shilton (Derby), G. Stevenson (Everton), A. Adams (Aston Villa), K. Sanson (Aston Villa), T. Steven (Aston Villa), N. Webb (Nottingham Forest), R. Robson (Manchester United), J. Barnes (Liverpool), P. Beardsley (Liverpool), G. Lineker (Aston Villa).
ENGLAND UNDER 21: P. Suckling (Crystal Palace), S. Statham (Tottenham), M. Gray (Derby), A. McLeary (Millwall), A. Thorn (Wimbledon), P. Gascoigne (Newcastle), S. Robson (West Ham), D. Wiese (Wimbledon), S. Sellers (Blackburn), E. Sheen (Millwall), G. Porter (Watford).

The ban on the clubs is already inhibiting the progress of promising youngsters who have been denied educational experiences abroad. Bobby Robson, the England manager, admits that the general standard would be sure to fall still further should the growth of his own representatives be similarly stunted.

"It is crucial that we take part in the European Championship," he said yesterday. "The members of my squad are the only players in the country who are gaining international experience. The lack

of it will eventually have an effect." It has already done so.

Adams, McMahon, Watson, Webb, and Wright would by now be accustomed to foreign habits, for instance, had their clubs been competing regularly in European competition over the last three years. As it is, they are comparative novices still learning how to cope with the likes of the Colombians, the Dutch, and the West Germans.

"It is important that we play against the best countries in the world," Robson went on. The thought that England's reputation might be more deeply soiled and that two years of his own work might be instantly undone provokes justifiable aggravation.

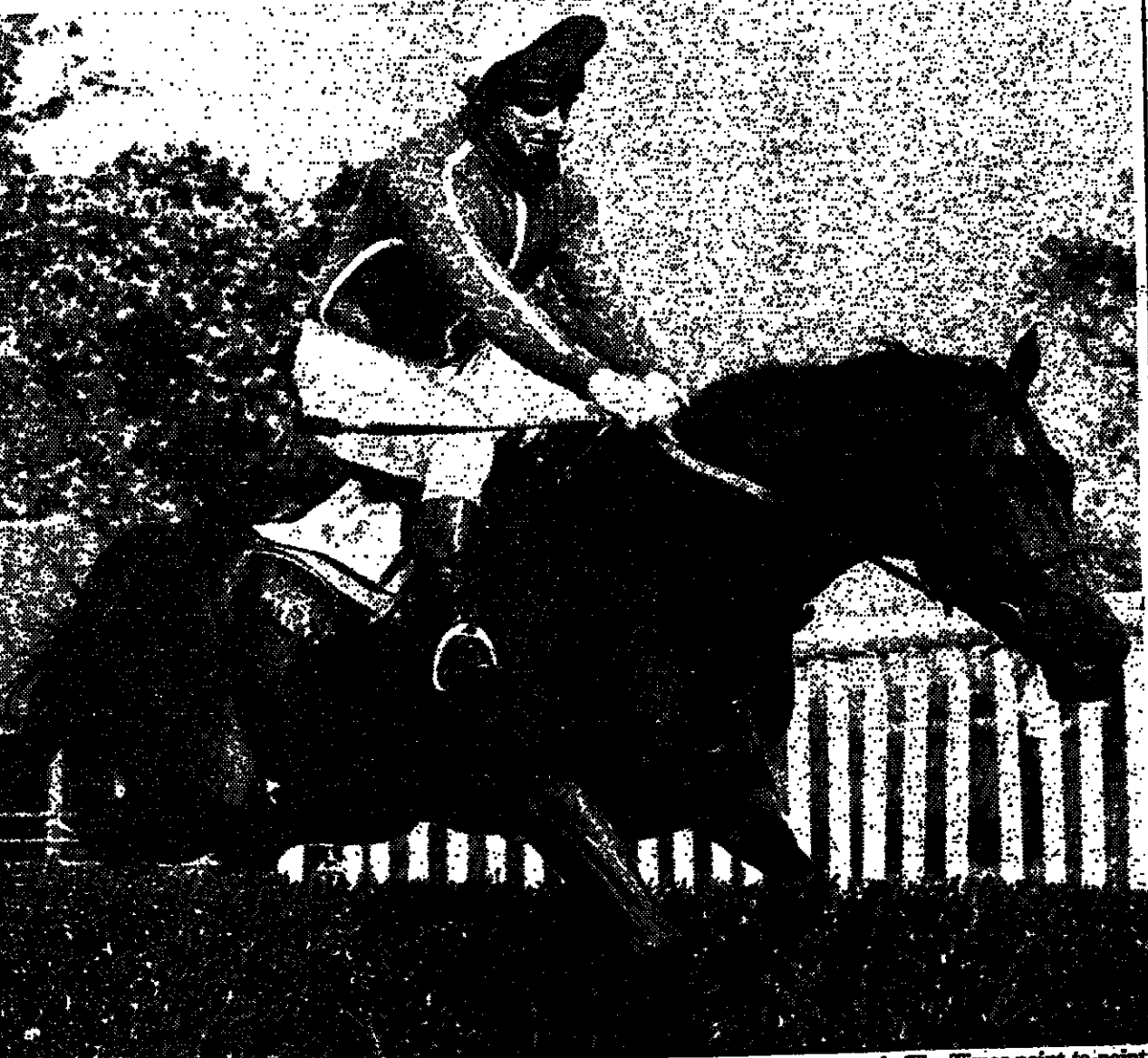
"I am a football man," he retorted sharply when asked about the threat of violent disturbances in and around the Stade Olympique. "I don't want anything to do with that." Less predictably, Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, was equally reluctant to utter any comment.

His statement was brief. "I would not want to enter into any hypothetical situation about what might happen at this match," he said before confirming that no warning had been offered, either officially or unofficially, by UEFA. Yet Europe's governing body believed that a public caution was unnecessary.

The behaviour this afternoon will represent a potential obstacle on England's route to the tournament in West Germany. Robson, who must assume that it will remain clear, has chosen the line-up that is likely to start against the Republic of Ireland on June 12. Only two places remain open to question.

Steven is recalled for Waddell on the right flank but probably only for 45 minutes. "Since I don't know much about the Swiss I want to start solid and go from there," Robson explained. Wright is again preferred to Watson, though not necessarily permanently, as the central defensive partner for Adams.

Stevens and Webb are preferred to Anderson and McMahon respectively against Switzerland who have not lost in Lausanne for five years. As well as defending their own sequence of eight games without defeat, England will attack Switzerland's unbroken run of six at home. The most fearsome danger, more worrying than any debilitating injury that may be inflicted on even the irreplaceable Bryan Robson, lies in the dark shadows on the periphery.



Taking flight: St Helens Bay, ridden by Jonathan Tudor, clears the last before going on to win The Times point-to-point championship final at Towcester yesterday. Report, page 38. (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Police prepare for trouble-makers

By John Goodbody

Continental police were yesterday tracking a group of up to 150 potentially troublesome supporters who are travelling across Europe independently of organized football parties, to today's England v Switzerland international in Lausanne.

Swiss police have learnt from the 1981 international in Basle when the England supporters rioted. They have drawn up emergency measures which include having 300 officers on duty at the game and temporarily banning wine shops from selling drink to be carried off their premises.

UEFA, the European governing body, has warned that if there is trouble at the game, then England will be expected to withdraw from the European championship, which begins in West Germany on June 10.

Ian McGregor, the Briton who is responsible for liaising with foreign police forces on football followers, said yesterday: "We have received information from Dutch police that a number of fans have travelled through The Netherlands towards Switzerland. We have informed the Swiss police of their movements. There is no cause for alarm. We are fully aware that there is always the chance of

problems. We can take all the precautions and make all the arrangements. But we cannot control what is in people's minds."

UEFA is sending Hans Bangerter, its secretary, as observer to the game in Lausanne partly because of its concern at the reports of the game between England and Scotland at Wembley last Saturday, when 223 supporters were arrested. Jacques Georges, the president of UEFA, has described today's game as "crucial for English football".

McGregor, the assistant chief constable of the British Transport Police, said that the times of departures of other known groups were being transmitted to the Swiss.

Approximately 300 England supporters are expected in Lausanne. They will be put in one enclosure, separated from rival supporters. Posters list forbidden items including bottles, knives, clubs, flag-poles. The Metropolitan Police will scrutinize the England supporters for known trouble-makers. The Lausanne police recognize the possibility of trouble after the game between the England supporters and the Swiss *cassiers* (smashers), who may have been drawn to Lausanne by the prospect of confrontation.

The Bridge of suspense

By Clive White

The moment Dixon missed an open invitation to round off some typically impish skill by Nevin in the sixth minute at Ayrshire Park on Wednesday, the point was probably passed where class would separate Chelsea and Middlesbrough in their duel for a first division future. Now it may be simply a test of nerve.

Despite their 2-0 defeat in the first leg, Chelsea survived their ordeal in the north-east rather better than many people expected. It was almost as if the Middlesbrough crowd were dutifully respectful of Chelsea's first division status. Sieve Wicks, the Chelsea centre back, observed: "We were led to believe that the reception would be hostile. Middlesbrough will find out what hostility means when they come down to the Bridge."

The role which Chelsea's much maligned supporters, therefore, have to play today could be crucial. If Middlesbrough get the collywobles, a two-goal lead would be scant protection against an inspired Chelsea. Then again Stamford Bridge has not proved particularly therapeutic to Chelsea in

bygone months; two wins in 14 games.

Middlesbrough should take heart from the fact that Charlton Athletic, not renowned for abundant character, managed a draw in similar emotional circumstances a few weeks ago. They can also draw on the experience of three epic encounters with Everton in the FA Cup in which they eventually went out only by the odd goal, scored by their own captain, at Goodison Park.

Certainly in the graceful Palladian and the rugged Mowbray they have players with the right sort of temperament to survive whatever pressures a 30,000 crowd will place them under.

Yet they looked troubled on Wednesday when Chelsea ran at them with pace and particularly on the rare occasions when Nevin did so with a little wizardry. Kevin Wilson, who scored twice in Chelsea's second leg defeat of Blackburn Rovers in the semi-final, is just the sort to wriggle through from midfield if selected in place of the injured Clive Wilson.

Bull tosses a challenge

By Clive White

A crowd of more than 80,000 will turn the clock back tomorrow for two former giants of the English game, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley. For those supporters it will be irrelevant that a game which would have graced an FA Cup final 20 years ago is for no more prestigious prize than the Sherpa Van Trophy.

It seems almost disrespectful to Burnley, one of the League's founder members, to bracket them with the likes of Wimbledon and Reading, but if they win it will be further evidence that the underdog is top dog at Wembley, at least this season.

Naturally, Graham Turner, the Wolves manager, has ev-

ery intention of breaking the habit. Besides, it is some time since Wolves were top dogs themselves; twice in recent years finding themselves in the hands of the receivers.

Bull, far and away Wolves' leading scorer with 52 goals, has the extra incentive of being just three away from a post-war record, though he says he would be happy with just one tomorrow, providing it is the only one of the game. Similarly, Kendall, their goalkeeper, is seeking his 28th clean sheet.

Burnley must decide if they should recall Gardner, having just resumed training after three weeks' absence with a knee injury.

It may be that Middlesbrough will have to score one goal to clinch promotion but to the division they left six years ago. Chelsea would then need to score three goals to force a replay with the venue to be decided on penalty kicks if anyone's heart has lasted that long. Their extraordinary 4-0 defeat at Ipswich last month apart, only one team has scored more than two goals against Middlesbrough since early September.

David Pleat, the manager of Leicester City, the team responsible for pushing Middlesbrough into this game of Russian roulette with their 2-1 victory at Ayrshire Park on the last day of the season, the doubts whether they can find the bullet needed to kill off Chelsea.

"Against us they were overcome by the fear of succeeding," Pleat said. "This time I don't think either team will freeze; they've got everything to play for. I just wonder whether Middlesbrough have got the ammunition to score the one or two goals they may need."

Standards raised for drug tests

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

Almost six months after *The Times* reported on drug-taking in British athletics, the findings of the Amateur Athletic Association committee of inquiry into those allegations is expected next month. But with the 1988 Mobil Grand Prix season beginning in California today, some of the promoters on the circuit are talking about raising the standards for drug-testing at their meetings.

David Bedford, chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Club (IAC) and director of its Miller-Lite Grand Prix meeting to be held in Edinburgh this year, took the strongest stance of the six promoters quizzed by the *Routledge* news agency this week.

Bedford confirmed that the general rule applied by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) official delegates to oversee drug-testing at grand prix meetings was to nominate at least eight people to be tested. But Bedford said that at the IAC meeting, "he will be instructed to test at least 20 people".

Andreas Bruegger, director of the *Weltklasse* in Zurich, said: "This year, in addition to the three-doctor teams, we will have another medical expert present in the (testing) room all the time, to look after the interests of the tested athletes."

That precaution is probably engendered by the claim of the Swiss athlete, Sandra Gasser, that her positive test at the world championships last year may have been caused by an interpoler in the testing-room in Rome.

Of the other promoters questioned, Sandro Giovannelli, of the Golden Gala, in Verona this year (due to refurbishment of the Rome Olympic stadium) took an alternative view, saying: "I'm not so convinced that [drug-taking] is as widespread as the media make out."

But Rume Anderson, the Norwegian Federation medical officer, said: "You can never be sure of the figures, but it is certainly on the increase, and the problem now is that parents are keeping their children away from training venues, which is going to affect the future of the sport."

Bedford laid some of the blame on the IAAF, saying: "If they spent half the amount [on combating drug-taking] that they spend on periodicals and magazines, they would be a long way towards solving the problem."

Gustafsson's roar awakens the cat

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Paris

The French championships are five days old but the players seeded to contest the men's singles final, Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg, have yet to play on the centre court. They are doing their best to attract the attention of the scheduling committee: Edberg has won nine sets out of 10 and Lendl six out of six.

Edberg is rumoured to be playing in Manchester next week but is unlikely to desert Paris so soon. The Roland Garros stadium was buzzing with rumours yesterday, most of them concerning the way the leading men will prepare for the next grand slam tournament, at Wimbledon.

John McEnroe may join Lendl and two Swedes, Magnus Gustafsson and Jonas Svensson, in helping Britain practise for their Davis Cup tie against Finland, at Bristol from June 9 to 11. McEnroe is booked to play at West Kirby, on the Wirral peninsula, the following week.

McEnroe's next match here will be against another American, Michael Chang, aged 16, who was born at Hoboken, New Jersey, after his parents had emigrated from Taiwan. Lendl, Pat Cash, Boris Becker and Henri Leconte are in the same half of the draw, which promises some lively entertainment.

Jeremy Bates, of Britain, was beaten 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 yesterday by Gustafsson, aged 21, a big chap with a two-fisted backhand. Gustafsson was the more consistent in hitting his ground strokes to a full length. Bates needed more punch or more variety. He could play only one game and it was not good enough.

A tabby cat laboriously climbed a lot of steps to achieve a bird's-eye view of the match but decided to have a nap in the sunshine instead. One also enjoyed the sight of a fresh crew of line judges marching on to the court when Bates was 0-5 down in the third set.

Bates kept them at work for

McEnroe brought back

Paris — Tom Gorman, the captain, confirmed here yesterday that John McEnroe will return to the United States Davis Cup team for the American Zone tie against Argentina in Buenos Aires in July (Richard Evans writes).

Apart from the relegation battle against West Germany last year — when he lost to Boris Becker — it will be McEnroe's first appearance in Davis Cup colours since he and Jimmy Connors lost to

two more games. Then Gustafsson broke through for the match with the help of two glorious winners, one down each line. The previously impassive Gustafsson then started everyone on the premises — and woke up the cat — with an echoing roar of pleasure.

Another usually impassive competitor, Paul Annacone, the handsome president of the Chip and Charge Club, chipped and charged in vain against Ronald Agnir, who lives at Bordeaux but had earlier affiliations with Morocco and Haiti.

Agnir's linguistic range covers Creole and Swahili, which suggests an uncommon versatility. He also uses a glistening, bright-green racket that looks as if it might have come off a Christmas tree.

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More to the point, he was good enough to beat Mats Wilander in Rome and good enough to frustrate Annacone yesterday.

Meanwhile Chris Evert was having a day's rest and hoping that she would be fit enough to resume her challenge for the women's singles title, which she has won seven times. Evert has been suffering from bursitis in her right heel. It could have been worse. A day or so ago there were suspicions that a bone might be broken.

Evert's most familiar rival, Martina Navratilova, had an easy but interesting match with the dark-haired Barbara Paulus, of Austria, aged 17, who has a free swing and an untamed air. Her fierce, two-fisted backhand was a challenge Navratilova could not resist. So Navratilova impressively held the shot to convince herself that she could deal with it.

As Guillermo Vilas was telling us the other day, tennis would not be half as much fun if they took away the sense of danger.

Simmons in stable condition

Phil Simmons, the West Indian opening batsman who underwent an emergency operation to have a blood clot removed from his brain, was moved out of intensive care at Bristol yesterday.

A spokesman for Frenchay Hospital said: "His condition is stable — he is as well as can be expected after a very serious operation."

The Trinidad player, aged 25, has been visited by the West Indies team manager, Jackie Hendricks, who was at his bedside yesterday morning. Simmons was felled by a short-pitched ball from the Gloucestershire fast bowler, David Lawrence, on the second day of the touring party's match at Bristol.

Hendricks, returning from the visit yesterday, said: "It was a huge relief to see Phil talking and laughing. He seems very sharp and said he could not wait to get back and play again."

"Only the doctors can say when that will be, but I just thank God he has at this time."

Lawrence was also one of the first visitors allowed to see Simmons along with the West Indian batsman's fiancée, who had travelled from London to be with him.

Simmons will remain in hospital for observation until at least the middle of next week and Hendricks said the doctors were not prepared to say when the batsman could play again until next Tuesday or Wednesday.

No decision on a replacement opening batsman will be taken before then, and Hendricks is clearly not prepared to accept yet that Simmons's tour is over. "I have alerted the West Indies board of his condition and if it becomes necessary we shall make an announcement about a replacement next week."

Small ruled out of first Test

Gladstone Small, the Warwickshire fast bowler, has suffered a recurrence of a thigh injury and has been ruled out of consideration for England's team for the first Test match against West Indies at Trent Bridge, which starts next Thursday.

Small strained his thigh during the Texaco Trophy match on Tuesday. Ian Botham is expected to be confined to his bed in a Worcester hospital for two weeks after undergoing a three-hour back operation on Thursday.

As always, the cricket administrators will be talking about the problems of fast, short-pitched bowling during the International Cricket Conference in July. For good reasons, any suggestion that the fast short-pitched ball be outlawed from the game is unlikely to receive more than a courteous hearing. It is part of the game. Pressure on the limitation of such bowling by legislation — rather than leaving it to the umpire's opinion — will be more intense.

Yet the fact that ball delivered by Lawrence to Simmons, though fast and short, could hardly be termed a deliberate bouncer, only underlines the dangers inherent in the game. Batsmen face such deliveries at their peril, but who is to say how they should go about dealing with them?

Craven added that negotiations were being conducted in secret and said the squad would not be announced until it had assembled in South Africa, in order to evade anti-apartheid protests.

END COLUMN

Safety is still a matter of choice

By Jack Bailey

Had the West Indies cricketers not been short of batting practice during this summer's tour there is no doubt that Phil Simmons and his partner, Gus Logie, would have left the field three overs before Simmons was nearly killed by a ball during the match against Gloucestershire on Thursday. But this, of course, is to overlook a much bigger "if": a helmet would have probably saved Simmons from any injury whatsoever.

That Logie was psychologically affected was apparent yesterday when he batted in the second innings wearing a helmet. Yet Richardson and Richards, among others, continued on their helmetless way.

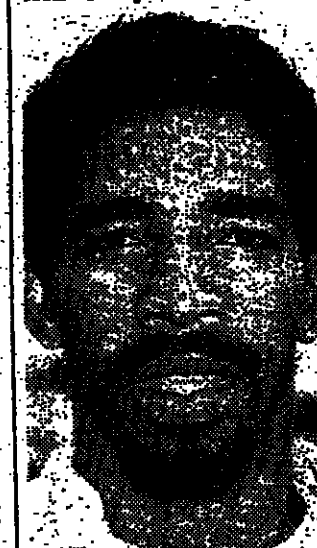
When Jackie Hendricks, the West Indies manager, was asked whether he would be issuing any particular instructions about the use of helmets, he wisely indicated that as far as he could see it should remain a matter of individual choice. It is a point of view with which it is difficult to argue.

It is, of course, well known that baseball players are obliged to wear protective head gear. Allan Border is supposed to have been converted following a knock on the head during a recent match at Edgbaston.

Should it be left to the individual? Is it right that accidents should be allowed to happen before preventive measures are taken? In my view the answer should still be "yes".

The baseball analogy is of dubious value. Baseball is a game where the "batting" stands still and the pitcher, to be successful, aims a full toss at an area between shoulder and knees. The "bean ball" aimed at the head, is outlawed, but still occurs — at speeds of up to 100mph. A fast full pitch of a nature similar to either of these is deemed unfair on the cricket field.

In cricket the batsman needs to be mobile; to see his feet. Many will say that



Simmons knew the dangers freedom of movement of the head is a better protection than all the equipment in the world.

The helmet is cumbersome. It is hot. And there are those who complain of sore heads and necks after innings which are not all that long. How many times are players hit because they are wearing a helmet and take their eye off the ball, lured by a false sense of security?

The arguments pro and con will rage for a while yet. Freedom of the individual to choose must be a heavy favourite as things stand, although those in the lower reaches of the batting order, especially those playing against the West Indies, are unlikely to choose the cap or the bare head.

Those who bat for a living must surely be free to play their trade in the way they think best. As Hendricks said: "I don't think I could ever persuade Viv Richards to wear a helmet if he didn't want to."

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Return of Slaney

San Jose (Reuters) — Mary Slaney, the double world athletics champion of 1983, takes part in her first major meeting since 1985 when she races over 3,000 metres here today.

The meeting is the first of 17 on this year's grand prix circuit. Slaney has missed the past two seasons because of leg injuries.

American deal
Capital Tigers, the Cardiff-based American football team, have received a four-year sponsorship worth £80,000 from Capital Windows.



Pika: boxed Frank Bruno

Final count
Rudi Pika, the former Welsh amateur heavyweight boxing champion who was narrowly defeated by Frank Bruno in the 1980 ABA finals, has been found dead at a council house in Cardiff.

Norman lags

Wendy Norman, the former world modern pentathlon champion, was in fourteenth place after shooting a moderate 183 when the women's national title contest began at Wantage yesterday. Kim Arata, of the United States, led with 196 ahead of the unranked Briton, Helen Thorpe, on 193.

Coach resigns

Adrian Simcox, the Scottish national tennis coach, has resigned after only 16 weeks for personal reasons. Simcox's decision was accepted by the Scottish Lawn Tennis Association at an emergency meeting earlier this week.

Tour talks under way

Johannesburg (Reuters) — Secret negotiations are under way to bring an international Rugby Union team to South Africa this year despite worldwide opposition. Danie Craven, president of the South African Rugby Board, said yesterday.

He confirmed that matches to celebrate the centenary of Eastern Province and the golden jubilee of Northern Transvaal would take place in August and September. He said: "It will be a team capable of beating the [South African] Springboks."

Craven added that negotiations were being conducted in secret and said the squad would not be announced until it had assembled in South Africa, in order to evade anti-apartheid protests.